COLLECTIONS

FOR A

HISTORY

OF

STAFFORDSHIRE

EDITED BY

The William Salt Archæological Society.

1912.

"And in this undertaking, the Reader may see what Furniture (though it lie disperst) our Publick Records will afford for History: and how plentifully our own may be supplied and improved, if pains were taken therein: for what is hitherto made publick, hath been collected, chiefly out of old Annals, and they filled with few things but such as were very obvious, nay the Annalists themselves (for the most part residing in Monasteries) too oftened byass'd with Interest, and Affection, to Times and Persons: But on the contrary, in our publick Records lye matter of Fact, in full Truth, and therewith the Chronological part, carried on, even to days of the Month. So that an industrious Searcher may thence collect considerable matter for new History, rectifie many mistakes in our old and in both gratifie the world with unshadowed verity."—(Ashmole's *History of the Garter.*)

LONDON:
HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty.

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The William Salt Archæological Society.

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THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

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THE REV. F. J. WROTTESLEY.

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THE REV. E. R. O. BRIDGEMAN.
MR. JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD, M.P.

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RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

I.—That the Society be called the "William Salt Archæological Society."

II.—The leading object of the Society shall be the editing and printing of original documents relating to the County of Stafford, to which, however, may be added papers selected by an Editorial Committee, illustrative of the same, or coming under any of the eight following heads:—

(*a*) Abstracts of the Monastic Chartularies, and of Ancient Family Deeds, with the names of witnesses and fac-similes of seals; Genealogies of Nobility and Gentry (accompanied by proofs), Heraldic Visitations, and other papers touching the general history and descent of properties and families.

(*b*) Printing and editing of the Public Records relating to the County, including the Exchequer or Pipe Rolls, the Assize Rolls, Fine Rolls, Inquisitions, Perambulations of Forests, Subsidy Rolls, and Assessments, &c., &c.

(*c*) History of Parishes and of Manors, and of Manorial Customs and Tenures, illustrated by Copies of, or reference to, original grants.

(*d*) Church Notes hitherto unpublished, such as Ecclesiastical Surveys, Extracts from Episcopal and Parish Registers, Copies of Epitaphs, and Description of Monuments and Ecclesiastical Buildings, Abstracts or Copies of Wills, &c.

(*e*) Notices of British and Roman Remains, and Roads and Buildings, and the Antiquities generally of the District.

(*f*) Autograph Letters and other Documents relating to the Civil War.

(*g*) Notices of distinguished Worthies, Broadsides, Election Squibs, &c.

(*h*) Correspondence, in which enquiries may be made and answered, on any of the above subjects, and miscellaneous information, including corrections of errors.

III.—The general affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council of ten, of whom five shall be trustees of the William Salt Library, and nominated by them, from time to time, and five shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Subscribers. The Council shall be empowered to delegate, if they see fit, the selection of the papers to be printed to an Editorial Committee. Of the Council, three shall be a quorum, and in case of equality of votes, their Chairman shall have a casting vote.

IV.—The Officers of the Society shall be a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Auditor, to be appointed by the Council. These Offices shall be honorary, but the Council shall have power to appoint an Assistant Secretary to be paid at the discretion of the Council, as the nature of his duties may warrant.

V.—The Subscription shall be One Guinea annually, to be paid in advance upon the first of January in each year, and such annual payment shall entitle each Subscriber to the volume issued for the year of such subscription. Any Subscriber shall be permitted to withdraw from the Society by giving notice of his intention three months before the termination of any year of Subscription.

N.B.—To save trouble, it is recommended that the Members of the Society pay their subscriptions to the Society's bankers by revocable order upon their own bankers, a printed form for which may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Corrected to 1st March, 1912.

The year in which Members joined the Society is prefixed. Where marked thus * the year is that in which the predecessors in title of the present Member joined.

1910 Adam, W. A., 29, Paget Road, Wolverhampton.
1912 Adams, Geo. N., Summerfield, Wolverhampton.
1905 Adams, Percy W. L., Moreton House, Wolstanton.
1910 Alcock, Dr. S. King, Portland House, Burslem.
1879 Amphlett, John, Clent, Stourbridge.
1910 Anglesey, The Rt. Hon. the Marquess of, Beaudesert, Staffs.
1899 Anson, Captain The Hon. G. A., Stafford.
1909 Antiquaries of London, Society of, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W. (W. St. John Hope, Hon. Sec.).
1901 Argles, T. A., Haregate, Leek.
1910 Attwood, T. A. C., Sion Hill House, Kidderminster.

1898 Bagot, The Rt. Hon. Lord, Blithfield, Rugeley.
1879 Bagot, Lt.-Col. Josceline, M.P., Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, Westmorland.
1902 Bamford, S. B., Hawthornden Manor, Uttoxeter.
1912 Barns, Rev. Thos., Hilderstone Vicarage, Stone.
1885 Bayliss, William, Ivy House, Walsall.
1911 Beck, F. T., Wulfrum Chambers, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.
1890 Beech, Rowland J., The Shaw, Cheadle, co. Stafford.
1901 Beresford, The Rev. E. A., Hoby Rectory, Leicestershire.
1879 Beresford, The Rev. William, Vicar of St. Luke's, Leek.
1896 Berlin Royal Library (*care of Asher and Co.*, 13, *Bedford Street, W.C.*).
1879 Bill, Charles, The Woodhouse, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent.
1881* Birch, Miss L. J., Parkstone House, Poole, Dorset.
1881 Birmingham Free Library.
1879 Boston (Massachusetts, U.S.A.) Public Library (Herbert Putnam, Librarian). (*Parcels through Messrs. E. G. Allen and Son*, 14, *Grape Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.*)
1879* Bourne, J., Hilderstone Hall, Stone, Stafford.
1879* Bradford, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Weston Park, Shifnal, Salop.
1886 Bree, The Venerable Archdeacon, Allesley Rectory, Coventry.
1879* Bridgeman, C. G. O., 11, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London.
1879* Bridgeman, The Rev. Ernest R. O., Blymhill Rectory, Shifnal.
1879 Brough, William Spooner, Leek.
1906 Broughton, Rev. R. C., The Vicarage, Prestbury, Cheshire.
1911 Browne, W., The Grange, Tipton, Staffs.
1879 Burne, Miss, 5, Iverna Gardens, Kensington, W.
1911 Burton-on-Trent Free Library.

1879 Caddick, Edward, Wellington Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

1892 Cambridge University Library, Cambridge (F. J. H. Jenkinson, Librarian).
1910 Carter, Geo. W., Eccleshall Castle, Staffs.
1879 Carter, W. Fowler, Maidsmere, Bromsgrove.
1910 Challinor, W. F., Pickwood, Leek.
1896 Chetham's Library, Manchester (Walter T. Brown, Librarian).
1879* Clark, Godfrey, Talygarn, Llantrisant, S. Wales.
1910 Coghill, Archibald F., Brampton Tree House, Newcastle, Staffs.
1909 College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London (W. H. Weldon, Treasurer).
1879 Collett, The Rev. E., Retford, Notts.
1912 Constitutional Club Library, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. (Librarian, A. S. Lewis).
1910 Cooper, Sir Richard Powell, Bart., Shenston Court, Lichfield.
1910 Cotterell, H. H., "Myvod," Foden Road, Walsall.
1908 Crallan, A. Arden, Miss, The Cottage, Hartmore, Godalming.
1879* Crewe, The Rt. Hon. the Marquess of, Crewe Hall, Cheshire.
1910 Crosbie-Dawson, G. J., May Place, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

1879 Dartmouth, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Patshull, Wolverhampton.
1879 Davenport, Rev. G. Horatio, Foxley, Hereford.
1879* Downing, W., Aldine Cottage, Olton, near Birmingham.
1911 Dudley Free Library (J. F. Timmins, Secretary).
1879 Duignan, W. H., Gorway House, Walsall.

1910 Edge, The Right Hon. Sir John, The Banks, Robertsbridge, Sussex.

1897 Farrer, W., Hall Garth, Carnforth.
1911 Faussett, H. J., Tamworth, Staffs.
1909 Fenton, Public Free Library, Staffs (Peter Fury, Secretary and Librarian).
1879 Fitzherbert, Basil Thomas, Swynnerton, Stone, co. Stafford.
1888 Fletcher, The Rev. William Geo. Dimock, M.A., F.S.A., Oxon Vicarage, Shrewsbury.
1882 Foley, Paul Henry, Prestwood, Stourbridge.
1879 Freer, J. H., Rugeley.

1881* Gardner, Miss, Hagley Hall, Rugeley.
1899 Gibbons, John L., Ellowes Hall, Sedgeley, Staffs.
1896 Gibbons, W. P., Ruiton House, Dudley.
1896 Gill, George, Highgate House, Walsall.
1879 Grazebrook, George, F.S.A., Odnall Cottage, Clent, near Stourbridge. 2 copies.
1909 Greene, H. Barratt, Elmhurst, Wolstanton, Staffs.
1908 Grundy-Newman, S. A., F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A.Scot., Littleton Place, Walsall.
1911 Guildhall Library, London, E.C. (B. Kettle, Librarian).

1902 Hambleton, A. S., Butterton, Leek.
1906 Handsworth Public Library (Arnold G. Burt, Librarian), Birmingham.
1907 Hanley, Public Free Library (A. J. Milward, Chief Librarian).
1909 Harcourt, The Right Hon. Lewis, P.C., M.P., Nuneham Harcourt, Oxon.

1911 Harcourt, Robert, M.P., House of Commons, S.W.
1894 Harding, Geo., 64, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.
1879* Hardy, Sir Reginald, Bart., Dunstall Hall, Burton-on-Trent.
1879* Harrowby, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Sandon Hall, Stone, Stafford.
1897 Hartley, George T., Wheaton Aston Hall, Stafford.
1890 Harvard College, Cambridge (Massachusetts, U.S.A.) (*Parcels per Messrs. E. G. Allen and Son, 14, Grape Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.*)
1879 Hatherton, The Right Hon. Lord, Teddesley, Penkridge.
1899 Hellier, Col. T. B. Shaw, Woodhouse, Womborne, Wolverhampton.
1904 Heywood, B. C. P., Wootton Lodge, Ellaston, Ashbourne.
1885 Holden, Sir Edward Thomas, Glenelg, Walsall.
1879 Holland, W. Richard, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs.
1910 Homer, Rev. F. A., West Bromwich.
1911 Homer, J. T., Dormston, Sedgley.
1909 Hopwood, C. H. (Dr.), Baker Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent.
1905 Huntbach, A., Elm Tree House, Stone, Staffs.
1891 Hutchinson. Rev. Sandford William, Blurton Vicarage, Stoke-on-Trent.

1899 Inge, Rev. F. G., Walton Vicarage, Stafford.

1879* Jackson, M.D., W. F. Marsh, Bearwood Hill, Smethwick.
1895 Joyce, The Hon. Sir M. Ingle, 16, Great Cumberland Place, London.

1905 Kynnersley, C. Sneyd, Deerndale, Uttoxeter.

1902 Landor, Walter N., Chadscroft, Rugeley.
1908 Lane, H. J. H. V., King's Bromley Manor, Staffs.
1896 Lichfield, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Shugborough Park, Stafford.
1881 Lichfield, The Right Rev. the Bishop of, Bishopstowe, Lichfield.
1879 Lichfield, The Librarian to the Dean and Chapter of, Cathedral Library, Lichfield.
1900 Lincoln's Inn, The Hon. Society of (A. F. Etheridge, Chief Librarian), Chancery Lane, W.C.
1886 Liverpool, The Free Public Library (Peter Cowell, Chief Librarian), William Brown Street, Liverpool.
1881 London Library (C. Hagberg Wright, Head Librarian), 12, St. James's Square, London, S.W.
1904 Longton Free Library (Joseph Hobson, Librarian), Longton.
1895 Lovatt, James, Brampton Hill, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

1879 Macgregor, The Rev. W., Bolehall Manor House, Tamworth.
1879* Madan, Mrs. F., Walford, Eccleshall.
1908 Mainwaring, Captain G. Cavenagh-, Colton House, Rugeley.
1881 Manchester Free Public Library (C. W. Sutton, Chief Librarian), Manchester.
1904 Mander, Geoff. L., Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton.
1906 Mander, Gerald P., The Mount, Wolverhampton.
1906 Meakin, Mrs., Darlaston Hall, Stone, Staffs.
1911 Meynell, Francis H., Hoar Cross, Staffordshire.

1890* Mills, H. C., Georgia Gardens, Head Down, Niton, Isle of Wight.
1904 Mitchell, John E., Finwood, Rowington, Warwick.
1910 Moody, Dr. A. Rowley, Richmond House, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.
1879 Moreton, Loftus B., Moseley Hall, Wolverhampton.
1879* Morgan, William, Walton Lodge, Walton Hill, Stafford.
1881 Mort, Lieut.-Col. Frederick D., Stafford.
1899 Murray, Rev. D. S., Blithfield Rectory, Rugeley.
1906 Mynors, W. C. T., Tixall Hall, near Stafford.

1906 Neve, John, Oaken, Wolverhampton.
1900 Newberry Library, The, Chicago, U.S.A. (*Parcels to care of Messrs. B. F. Stevens and Brown, 4, Trafalgar Square, London.*)
1895 Newcastle, The Free Library (Librarian, Newcastle-under-Lyme).
1910 New South Wales (Sydney), Public Library of (*care of Messrs. Truslove and Hanson, Publishers, 153, Oxford Street, London, W.*).
1897 New York Public Library, U.S.A. (*Parcels to care of Messrs. B. F. Stevens and Brown, 4, Trafalgar Square, London.*)
1910 Nicholson, Sir Arthur, Highfield Hall, Leek.
1911 Nicholson Institute, Leek (Kineton Parkes, Secretary).
1911 North Staffs. Field Club, Stone (W. Wells Bladen, Secretary).

1885 Okeover, Haughton Charles, Okeover, Ashbourne, Derby.
1911 Oldham, Capt. C. Dansey, Bellamour Lodge, Rugeley.

1911 Paice, Rev. A., The Vicarage, Walsall.
1879 Parker, The Rev. F. P., Colton Rectory, Rugeley.
1902 Pershouse, G. H. Bradney, Stafford House, Victoria Park, Manchester.
1882 Philips, J. W., Heybridge, Tean, Stoke-on-Trent.
1888 Plymouth, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Hewell Grange, Redditch.

1905 Rae, C. D., Leigh, Stoke-on-Trent.
1879 Robinson, Brooke, Barford House, Warwick.
1882 Rochester, The Very Reverend the Dean of, The Deanery, Rochester.
1896 Rollason, Arthur, 5, Union Street, Birmingham.
1881 Rotton, Sir J. F., Lockwood, Frith Hill, Godalming, Surrey.

1910 Salt, A. E. Wrottesley, Faculty Club, University of California, San Francisco.
1879* Salt, R. J., The Rectory, Standon, Eccleshall, co. Stafford. (*Parcels to Standon Bridge Station, L. and N.W. Railway.*)
1901 Salt, The Rev. F. J. (*care of William Salt Library*), Stafford.
1879* Salt, Sir Thomas A., Bart., Chatcull, Eccleshall, Staffs.
1879 Salt, The William (Salt) Library, Stafford. 2 copies.
Salt, The William (Salt) Library, free, for exchange with:—
The Derbyshire Archæological Society.
The Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society.
The Shropshire Archæological Society.
The Thoresby Society, Leeds.
The Yorkshire Archæological Society.
1908 Science and Art Library, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington (G. H. Palmer, Librarian).

1882 Scott-Gatty, Sir A., Garter Principal King of Arms, College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.
1879 Scrivener, A., Hanley.
1902 Shrewsbury and Talbot, The Right Hon. the Earl of, Ingestre, Stafford.
1882 Smith, William, 17, Queen Street, Leek.
1879 Sneyd, Dryden Henry, Ashcombe Park, Leek.
1879* Stanton, Miss Deborah, 58, Elm Park Gardens, London, S.W.
1910 Staveley-Hill, H. S., M.P., Oxley Manor, Wolverhampton.
1881 Stoke-upon-Trent Free Library (A. C. Caddie, F.R.H.S., Librarian and Curator), Stoke-on-Trent.
1879* Swinfen-Broun, Lieut.-Col. M., Swinfen Hall, Lichfield.
1879 Swynnerton, The Rev. Charles, Steppingley Rectory, Ampthill, Beds.

1887 Talbot, Rev. Arthur, Edgmond Rectory, Salop.
1903 Taylor, Rev. Thomas, M.A., F.S.A., Vicarage, St. Just-in-Penrith, Cornwall.
1901 Thorneycroft, Geo., Dunston Hall, Penkridge.
1879* Tildesley, Cecil, Penkridge, Staffs.
1911 Tunstall Free Public Library, Tunstall.
1906 Twemlow, F. R., Peatswood, Market Drayton.
1909 Twyford, Thos. N., Whitmore Hall, Newcastle, Staffs.

1910 Victoria, Public Library of, Melbourne, Australia. (*Parcels care of Agent-General for Victoria, Melbourne Place, Strand, London, W.C.*)

1885 Walsall Free Public Library (A. Morgan, Librarian), Walsall.
1879* Ward, Mrs., Rodbaston, Penkridge.
1905 Washington, D.C., U.S.A., Library of Congress. (*Care of American Agency, King Edward Mansions, 14, Grape Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.*)
1911 Watney, V., Cornbury Park, Chartbury, Oxon.
1901 Watts, James, Abney Hall, Cheadle, Cheshire.
1906 Wedgwood, Mrs. Clement F., Barlaston Lea, Stoke-on-Trent.
1902 Wedgwood, Josiah C., M.P., Moddershall Oaks, Stone, Staffs.
1879 Wedgwood Institute (J. Wilcox Edge, Curator), Burslem.
1890 Wednesbury Free Public Library (Mr. Stanley, Librarian), Wednesbury.
1881 West Bromwich Free Library (G. O. Hodges, Librarian), West Bromwich.
1911 Westwood, A., Harbourne Manor House, Harbourne.
1904 White, John H., 175, High Street, Camden Town, London, N.W.
1879 Whitehouse, Benjamin, Turls Hill, Sedgeley, near Dudley.
1906 Wiggin, Sir Henry A., Bart., Walton Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire.
1903 Wilson, Rev. R. A., Witley Rectory, Worcester.
1911 Wisconsin State Historical Society (*per Messrs. G. E. Steckert and Co., 2, Star Yard, Carey Street, Chancery Lane, W.C.*).
1882 Wolseley, Sir Charles Michael, Bart., Wolseley Park, Rugeley.
1881 Wolverhampton Free Library (John Elliot, Librarian), Wolverhampton.
1906 Wood John B., Henley Hall, Ludlow.
1908 Wood, J. M., Longland, Holkham, Norfolk.

1879* Wrottesley, The Right Hon. Lord, 8, Herbert Crescent, Hans Place, London, S.W.

1879* Wrottesley, The Hon. Mrs. George, 75, Cadogan Gardens, London, S.W. (Hon. Life Member).

1901 Wrottesley, Rev. F. J., Denstone Vicarage, Uttoxeter.

189 *Subscribing Members and* 1 *Honorary Member.*

225 *Copies printed in all.*

Subscribers are requested to communicate any change of address, and librarians any change in personnel, to the Hon. Secretary, William Salt Library, Stafford.

The William Salt Archæological Society.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21ST, 1911.

THE 33rd Annual Meeting of the members of the William Salt Archæological Society was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on Saturday. The Earl of Dartmouth (Lord Lieutenant of the County) presided, and there were also present the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Hatherton, C.M.G., Captain the Hon. G. A. Anson, Sir Reginald Hardy, Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P. (Hon. Sec.), the Revs. E. R. O. Bridgeman, R.D., G. T. Royds, R.D., W. Beresford, R.D., S. W. Hutchinson, F. P. Parker, L. Lambert, and F. A. Homer; Colonel F. D. Mort, Drs. Fausset, A. Rowley Moody, and F. Shuttlebotham; Messrs. W. S. Brough, J. E. Mitchell, W. Wells Bladen, W. N. Landor, S. A. H. Burne, A. Huntbach, H. E. Moody, P. W. L. Adams, A. Scrivener, W. R. Holland, J. T. Homer, W. F. Carter, and J. W. Bradley (Assistant Secretary). Those who sent apologies for absence included Lord Bagot.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report of the Assistant Secretary (Mr. J. W. Bradley) was as follows:—

The number of members at the end of 1909 was 159. A considerable addition of new members in 1910 brought up the total to 183, of whom 180 were annual subscribers—one taking two copies of the Transactions. The present list of old members is 179, two of whom are life members. The changes since last year are as under:—Mr. R. J. Salt takes the place of Mrs. Edward Salt. Loss, by death, 3; withdrawal, 1; gain, by new members, 7; these including the Wisconsin State Library, Burton Library, Dudley Library, and North Staffordshire Field Club. Mr. Watney purchased back volumes to the value of £9 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the Wisconsin Library to the value of £7 9*s.* 4*d.* Since the balance sheet was drafted the list of arrears has been reduced by £6 and the above £7 9*s.* 4*d.* paid into the bank.

Mr. J. C. Wedgwood explained that the balance sheet had not yet been audited. It showed an adverse balance of £26 7*s.* 4*d.*

Report of the Editorial Committee.

The report of the Editorial Committee on the work done during the past year, which was submitted by the Honorary Secretary, was as follows:—

The volume for 1911 was issued to subscribers in July, was confined to records previous to 1327, and contained the *Liberate Rolls of Henry III.*, the *Final Concords of Edward I. and II.*, the *Inquisitions Post Mortem, Ad quod damnum, &c., E. of Henry III., Edward I. and II.*, the *Testa de Nevil*, and further instalments of the *Staffordshire Cartulary*, besides the usual reviews. Of these the first three consisted in printing records that had already been transcribed for the late Mr. Salt. The Hon. Secretary received valuable help in the *Testa de Nevil* from Mr. Horace Round, and in the *Cartulary* from Mr. Swynnerton. The volume for 1912 is already in hand, 200 pages of *Star Chamber Proceedings* being already printed. The Committee propose to complete the volume with a short monograph by Mr. Swynnerton on the *Early Swynnertons;* with annotated lists of the *Sheriffs, Escheators and Justices of the Peace;* and with reviews of all the 34 volumes of *Lists and Indexes*, published by the Public Record Office. This last work being intended to show what material is still available for transcription or calendaring by the Society at the Public Record Office, as well as to give students an idea of the opportunities provided by these lists for original research. The volumes have been kindly presented to the Society by Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, the deputy-keeper, and will in due course find a place in the library. The Committee believe that it will be best in future to confine each volume to particular periods, dealing alternately with the period before and after 1500. References to an index which covers five centuries of time are inconvenient and tiresome; the index itself becomes unduly long and complicated.

Mr. Wilson's work on the *Bishops' Registers* had been interfered with by his change of parish, but something of it will, they hope, be ready for presentation in the 1913 volume. Mr. Landor's work has also been postponed, partly because it is not ready and partly because it will require more space than we have available this year. The Committee have carefully considered the work on *Armorials*, which Mr. Grundy Newman has been doing, and of which he has kindly supplied the Committee with samples. While noting the great value of this work

for reference, they do not think that its publication would quite fall within the scope of the Society's work. The Hon. Secretary has completed the transcription and translation of the *Tunstall Court Rolls*, 1326 to 1700. The matter would completely fill one of our volumes, and as it is mainly of interest to one locality only, the Committee do not think they would be justified in printing it, unless the municipality of Stoke-on-Trent could be induced to assist in the cost, so as to make it an extra volume.

It will be noticed that the financial position of the Society is not so satisfactory owing to the large size of the last volume and to the number of arrears. Also there is to be considered the fact that the considerable payment to Mr. Boyd for copying the *Star Chamber Proceedings* appears in this year's accounts.

The Committee desire to express their sympathy to Mr. Bradley, the Secretary of the Society, in the loss of his wife, who was of great assistance to the Society, and whose loss they greatly feel. The Committee recognize that the work of the Society falls now very heavily upon Mr. Bradley, and contemplate giving him some assistance in his secretarial work during the coming year.

Mr. WEDGWOOD, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that several well-known antiquaries had expressed their warm approval of the last volume of *Transactions*. Mr. Farrer, the Lancashire antiquary, had suggested that in dealing with the records of the sixteenth century *Star Chamber Proceedings*, instead of transcribing in full, as they were doing, it would be well to make an index calendar, so that students would know what material there was, and where in the Public Record Office they could get fuller information. He pointed out that if they attempted to transcribe as fully as they had done they would never get through the sixteenth century, and that a calendar would deal with the work much quicker.

The Rev. F. A. HOMER seconded the proposition.

A brief discussion took place as to the contents of the next volume.

Mr. LANDOR stated that he had not yet completed the history of the Wolseley family, but had prepared a list of the incumbents of Staffordshire parishes between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, with notes on each individual where possible.

The Rev. W. BERESFORD suggested that a list of escheators should be published, and this was approved. The report was adopted.

The Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

Mr. Wedgwood read a communication from H.M. Office of Works with reference to the preservation of ancient monuments. The First Commissioner hoped that this Society would help to advance this most desirable work, by making known as widely as possible the scope of the Ancient Monuments Protection Acts, and thereby securing for some of the many historic monuments of the country that permanent protection of which they stood so greatly in need. It was added that the preparation and transmission to the Office of Works of a list of monuments within the sphere of action of the Society, which, by the co-operation of their owners, might be handed over to the custody of the Office under the Acts, would be a most valuable public service. Mr. Wedgwood suggested the appointment of a small committee to see what the Society could do in the matter. He explained that the Acts provided that where a landlord desired to have something worthy kept up by the State and protected against any sort of vandalism, he could hand it over to the custody of the State, but would not thereby lose the ownership. He (Mr. Wedgwood) thought if the facts were more widely known, people might take greater advantage of the Acts.

Mr. W. Wells Bladen (Hon. Secretary of the North Staffordshire Field Club) stated that a similar communication had been brought before the members of that Club, and they had referred the subject to the archæological section. He had no doubt that the members of that section would welcome the co-operation of members of that Society. In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Wells Bladen explained that the sphere of action of the Club covered the whole of the county.

Mr. W. R. Holland said that if they looked carefully into the work of the William Salt Archæological Society they would find that the subject to which the Office of Works had drawn attention came within the scope of their operations. The Derbyshire Archæological Society were taking up the matter, and he thought it was a branch which the William Salt Archæological Society might interest themselves in with great advantage. There were numerous Roman antiquities and prehistoric remains in Staffordshire which ought to be written about, investigated, and preserved.

Dr. A. R. Moody, in supporting the proposal, said he personally knew of what he believed to be prehistoric remains, the existence of which were known only to a few—of caves which in all probability, if properly explored, would be found to have been occupied by prehistoric man. Personally, he felt that these investigations should not be confined

to the North Staffordshire Field Club, important and capable as that body was, but that the William Salt Archæological Society should deal with the matter in its own way.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the only question was whether that Society would do the work more effectually than the Field Club. He did not think there was any question about their being empowered to take the matter in hand if they so desired.

The Rev. W. BERESFORD drew attention to several ancient monuments in Staffordshire, and proposed that a small sub-committee should be elected to act with the Field Club to take up the question, with a view of making local antiquities more generally known, and, if possible, getting them placed under the protection of the Office of Works.

The proposition was seconded by Mr. HOLLAND and carried. Sir Reginald Hardy, the Rev. W. Beresford, the Rev. F. A. Homer, and Mr. W. R. Holland were appointed as members of the sub-committee, with power to co-opt other gentlemen.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, it was decided to send a reply to the Office of Works, pointing out that the William Salt Archæological Society were prepared to take up the work, and that a sub-committee had been appointed to deal with the matter.

Sir REGINALD HARDY informed the meeting that there was a list of historical monuments in the archives of the County Council which might prove of assistance.

LORD LICHFIELD, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Earl of Dartmouth for presiding, referred to the fact that the Lord Lieutenant's remarks at the last meeting had resulted in the Society obtaining new subscribers.

LORD HATHERTON, in seconding the position, said that no man did more for the county than did Lord Dartmouth.

The CHAIRMAN, in responding, said that Lord Hatherton's remark reminded him of the pot calling the kettle black, for if there was one public man in Staffordshire who did more than any other it was Lord Hatherton. They were all very glad to do whatever they could in the interests of the county. The work of the Society was one which carried them a long way back, but how far it was going to carry them forward could not be said. His lordship added that he believed that his son-in-law, Mr. Francis Meynell, would be willing to become a subscriber.

The William Salt Archæological Society.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1911.

1910.	*Receipts.*			£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank Sept. 15, 1910	....	....	....	47	18	4
,, Subscriptions and past Arrears	....	....	....	174	16	6
,, Sales during year....	....	....	....	14	10	2
,, Balance due to Bank Sept. 15, 1911	....	....	....	26	7	4
Members on Sept. 15, 1910....	....	183				
,, died since	....	3				
,, withdrawn....	....	1				
		179				
Members added	....	4				
Total Members on Sept. 15, 1911		183				
				£263	12	4

1910.		*Payments.*	£	s.	d.
Oct.	16.	By J. W. Bradley, Honorarium	15	0	0
,,	,,	,, J. W. Bradley, petty cash....	3	0	2
,,	,,	,, W. H. Smith and Son, stationery	2	15	9
1911.					
Jan.	31.	,, Rev. F. Parker for copying fines	2	12	6
June	13.	,, W. K. Boyd for extracting *Star Chamber Rolls*, Henry VIII., &c.	34	16	7
Aug.	18.	,, H. Andrews for copying Inquisitions, &c.	6	10	0
,,	24.	,, Messrs. Harrisons, 225 copies of Vol. 1911, pp. 538	192	10	4
,,	,,	,, F. Ovenden, indexing Vol. 1911	5	13	0
		,, Bank charges and cheque book	0	14	0
		Total	£263	12	4

CONTENTS OF VOL. 1912.

	Page
1. **Star Chamber Proceedings. Henry VIII. and Edward VI.,** *Continued from Vol. X, i, New Series, and Vol.* 1910	1–207
2. **The "Lists and Indexes" of Records at the Public Record Office.** *By the Honorary Secretary*	209–259
3. **The First Two Generations of the Swynnertons of Co. Stafford (1086–1122)**	261–270
4. **The Staffordshire Sheriffs (1086–1912), Escheators (1247–1619), and Keepers or Justices of the Peace (1263–1702).** *By the Hon. Secretary* ..	271–344
5. **Reviews.** *By the Honorary Secretary*	345–366

CORRIGENDA.

p. 274.—The two first sheriffs there given are probably incorrect. Eyton in his *Staffordshire Domesday* produces evidence to show that Thurkil of Warwick (p. 28) was sheriff in 1067–8, and that one Nicholas was sheriff in 1086 and 1109 (p. 55). This Nicholas may have been either Nicholas de Stafford (*Staff. Colls.*, V, i, p. 9) or Nicholas de Beauchamp (*ibid.*, p. 10).

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS.

HENRY VIII. AND EDWARD VI.

Continued from Vol. X, i, New Series, and Vol. 1910.

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS.

Continued from Vol. X, i, New Series, and Vol. 1910.

INHABITANTS OF WALSALL *v.* BEAMONT.[1]

Bundle 28, No. 109.

This is the replication of Roger Dyngley and Thomas Rice, as well in their names as in the names of all the inhabitants of the town of Walsale, to the bill of answer of John Beamont, esquire.

The said bill of answer is a matter of untruth, etc. And their bill [1498] of complaint is true, etc. Thomas Morys and John Cradeley named in the bill of complaint made assault upon Thomas Rice, for which riot they were taken and put in the King's prison to remain till it were known whether the said Thomas Rice, of the said stroke, should die or live. The said John Beamont "arreised" the King's liege people to break the said prison and fetch out the said malefactors by force. The said Roger Dyngley, as King's officer and mayor of Walsale, send two credible persons to the said John Beamont, to the town of Widdesbury, advising him, in eschewing of great inconveniences, as he would answer to the King's grace at his peril, to cause all such persons as by his means there were riotously assembled, to keep the peace. The said John Beamont answered that if the mayor would deliver the said malefactors out of prison he would be contented therewith and meddle no further in the matter, and if the mayor would not be agreeable thereto, he would them out of prison by force, against the wills of the mayor and inhabitants of the town of *Walsale*. So he in said riotous manner continued until William Harpour and William Wylkes,[2] the justices of the peace, commanded him in the King's name to the contrary. Without that the said bill of complaint is unsufficient, etc., or feigned of malice, etc., and that the said John Cradeley servant to

[1] This suit really belongs to Henry VII., see Vol. X, i, N.S., pp. 80–2.

[2] Wm. Harper and Wm. Wilkes were both Justices of the Peace for Staffs from about 1480 to about 1505.

John Beamont was wrongfully imprisoned or that the said John Beamont ever saw any evil disposition of the said mayor and inhabitants of the said town of Walsale, "wherethrough" he had cause to depart out of the said town to take his place at Weddesbury as in his answer is surmised. Therefore your plaintiffs beseech that they have a reasonable bond upon John Beamont, that from henceforth he and all his be of good aberyng against the King's tenants and inhabitants of Walsale.

WHYTNEY *v.* DALE.

Bundle 25, No. 302.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

[1509] Your orator John Whytney, of Swythumley, co. Stafford, in August last, in the first year of your noble reign, was at *Maxfelde* co. Chester (Macclesfield) about the conveying of a soldier or able person to serve your majesty in your wars in Scotland according to his bounden duty, and in coming from the house of Hugh Andrewe, and riding on a gelding towards his mansion house at Swythumley, having no weapon, Robert Dale, Raynold Baxter, John Watson, Hugh Bothe, Roger Watson, Robert Horderne, Robert Close and other riotous persons in warlike manner assaulted your orator, being an impotent man of the age of 60 years, and wounded and illtreated him during which time Ralph Holinshedde, Thomas Browne and William Button, neighbours of your orator, came to the said riotous persons and would have hindered their purpose. And the said riotous persons being then in a great fury assaulted the said Holyngshed, Browne and Button, and had not rescue come, they had been slain. The said riotous persons so behave with threatening words towards your orator that he, his servants and family stand in great jeopardy of their lives, and the said persons are so maintained within the county of Chester by their friends that your orator can have no remedy against them in the same county. Therefore please your majesty to grant several writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Robert Dale, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Robert Dale.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. As to any riot etc., he is not guilty. The plaintiff and his son John Wytney long before August, bare malice towards this defendant, and John Wytney the son, with Humphrey Rausbecke assaulted him, also Hugh Witne, son of the plaintiff, with others, by the procurement of the plaintiff lay in wait to

slay this defendant. And whereas this defendant in the August mentioned, on a market day at Maxfelde came to the said market to do his necessary affairs, not knowing the plaintiff to be in the town, and after his business was finished came alone into the house of Hugh Andros, being a common victualling house, the said plaintiff struck his horse to the intent to have trodden the said defendant under his foot, and drew out his woodknife and dagger, and would have slain this defendant if he had not defended himself, and if divers persons by chance at the market that day had not rescued him. If the plaintiff had any hurt it was upon his own assault, which is the assault mentioned in the said bill of complaint. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

LITTELTON *v.* STANLEY.

Bundle 27, No. 164.

Writ of dedimus potestatem to Robert Brudenell, one of the justices for pleas assigned to be held before the King, and William Grevill, one of the Justices of the Bench, to examine witnesses in the matter between Edward Lyttelton and John Stanley, and others, dated at Westminster, 12 July, 2 Henry VIII.

The certificate of Robert Brudenell, one of the King's Justices, made to the Council of the King in his Star Chamber, by virtue of the King's writ directed to him.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Edward Lyttilton. One Richard Littilton his father has [1510] an assize of rent against John Stanley of co. Stafford, esquire[1]; which Richard required the sheriff of the said county to take a view of the land where the rent is, commanding your orator to go with the sheriff and his officers, whereupon the sheriff appointed Thomas Palmar his bailiff to request divers of the jury to make the view, whereupon Sir Lewes Bagott, knight, Richard Lane, esquire, Thomas Kynnersley, Walter Leveson, Richard Underhill, Robert Kynnersley, Robert Gelye, Thomas Roill, Roger Penson, John Nykkyn and Thomas Kent who were impanelled in the said assize, met your bailiff and orator at Lichfield, to view the said land. The said John Stanley being at Lichfield asked one of the jury whither he was going, and he said to take the view of the lordship of *Clyfton Camvyle* where the rent in demand was going out. And the said John Stanley commanded him and the other jurors to come upon his land in pain of their life, whereupon they durst go no

[1] John Stanley, lord of Pipe and Clifton Camville, b. 1481, d. 1514, leaving two daughters and co-heiresses.

further. On 14th March, 1 Henry VIII (1510), came John Stable, William Glover, Richard Sutton, and James Warner, servants of John Stanley, with swords, etc., and would not suffer Sir Lewis Bagot nor the others to pass that way. Afterwards the said Sir Lewis Bagott took the view and as your said orator and bailiff were riding home, John Stanley with Henry Gerrard his brother-in-law with others murderously assaulted your orator who by entreaty of Richard Lane, Robert Kynnersley and Walter Leveson was allowed to go his way. After that the said John Stanley came to Stafford to the assize with 80 men in harness, which manner of demeanour will give occasion to your lieges in in that country that they shall not dare to take the view of any lands or to sue any assize against any gentlemen for fear of his life. Wherefore please your highness to command the same John Stanley, etc., to answer to the premises.

The answer of John Stanley and Henry Gerrard his brother-in-law.

The said bill is made only upon malice. A long time before the suit of assize, Richard Littleton, father to Edward Lyttleton, pretending to have a yearly fee of 5 marks out of the manor of John Stanley called Clifton Canvile, required the said John at Lichfield at the court there, to have payment thereof. The said John said he knew not that the said Richard had any right thereto, and denied him any distress or payment of the said rent. Thereupon the said Richard agreed he would accept that denier and thereupon pursue his assize upon the same. After the said Edward Littelton and others, by command of the said Richard went to the lands and tenements of Thomas Merston in Hauston (Harlaston), no parcel of the said lands, and with force and arms loosed the beasts out of the plough and carried them away for the distress for the fee, and so cruelly menaced Thomas Merston and his wife that they died shortly afterwards. After the said Richard sued assize against the said John Stanley for his fee, and thereupon laboured the jury of the said assize to take view of the said lands, whereupon Thomas Royall one of the jury sued the premises to the said John Stanley at Lichfield, as he was keeping another court there. And the said John, hearing that twenty-six of the said jury were laboured to take the view of the same lands, more for to face the said John at home at his own manor than to take the view peaceably according to the order of the law, desired Thomas Royall, being his friend to spare his resort thither, and desired him to speak to others of the same jury, to do the same, which they did. Whereupon Edward Littelton, by command of Richard his father and others with him, went to the same manor, upon colour to take the

view, and when they came to a gate to enter the same, John Stable a servant of John Stanley and others came to the gate and desired Edward Littelton to depart from thence, and to take no meddling within the said manor, saying that they were contented that all the jury of the same assize that were then present should come into the said manor to take the view according to the order of the law. Then divers adherents of the said Edward and servants of Sir Lewis Bagott made assault on the said John Stable whereupon the said John for his defence put an arrow in his bow to shoot towards his adversaries. After that the same jury had taken the view and were going home, the said Edward with them, the said John Stanley and Henry Gerrard met them in the way at "Harleston Townes end," and the said John then peaceably welcomed the jury and said he was contented with the view that they had taken, and there in easy manner said to the said Edward Littelton "Wel Edward Littelton I shall mete with the well I noughe." Whereupon the said Edward alighted from his horse, and drew his sword and made assault upon the said John Stanley and Henry Gerrard. Whereupon mischief was like to have ensued had not the jury gone between them. So that after the said Edward "hadde submitted him avaylyng (? unveiling) his hatte sumwhatt beside his hedde in tokyn that he knowledged him selffe to have done amisse to the said John Stanley" the said parties departed. Afterwards the said John Stanley in peaceable manner came to Stafford to the assize sued against him by the said Richard Littelton, and divers of his kinsmen with their friends resorted to him to welcome him to town. Howbeit the said Richard Littelton and Edward his son together assembled to them William Chetwyn[1] esquire, and other their adherents, against the said John Stanley, to the great vexation of your subjects there. Without that the said John Stanley or his servants are guilty of any such misdemeanour as by the said bill is surmised.

The replication of Edward Littelton.

The articles contained in his said bill are true. The said John Stanley confessed them to be true before Robert Brudenell, justice of the assize, Reynold Pege, clerk of the assize, John Gyfford, sheriff there, Sir John Aston, knight, Sir Lewes Bagott, knight, and before forty more then present at the said sessions, but now as a man lacking truth he denies the contents in the bill. The same John Stanley knew that the said Richard had right to the said fee, for the same John has paid it at

[1] It will be remembered that Stanley of Elford and Clifton murdered Chetwynd of Ingestre in 1494 on Tixall Heath.

divers times, and the said Edward showed to the said John Stanley, the very patent of John Stanley uncle to the said John, who was undoubted inheritor to the said manor of Clifton Canvile, to the same Richard thereof made for term of his life. The said John Stable with other five which John Stanley daily keeps about him feloniously murdered a squire in that country called William Chetwyn, which murderers the said John keeps about him in all likelihood to murder other such as please him to the great dread of all your subjects in those parts, for the said murderers go daily in harness.

The rejoinder of John Stanley.

Whereas divers friends of the said Thomas Marstone and his wife have put divers bills of indictments for the death of the said Thomas and his wife to Richard Littelton and other Justices of the peace in co. Stafford, to have the said murder to be inquired, when the said bills came to the hands of the said Richard he kept them, and would not deliver them to the inquests sworn to inquire of all murders and felonies done in the county contrary to good order. So by means thereof the death of the said Thomas and his wife is likely to be unpunished. Divers times before the said assize against him, the said John says that he offered the said Richard that if he would take indifferent persons to see his title to the said rent and such matter as the said John could show in avoiding the same, and if he could not shew sufficient matter to discharge the title of the said Richard to the said rent, that then he would pay the said rent without any further suit. Yet notwithstanding he sued the said assize against the said John, wherein the said John behaved himself according to the King's laws. [*Traverses the rest of the replication.*]

Depositions taken at Stafford, 23rd July, 2 Henry VIII, before Robert Brudenell, and William Grevell.

Thomas Kynnersley of Loxley, co. Stafford, esquire, aged 40 years, Walter Leveson of Hampton, co. Stafford, aged 40 years, Richard Underhill of Hampton, gentleman, Richard Lane of the Hide, co. Stafford, gentleman, aged 36 years, impanelled on the said jury, depose [*as is contained in the bill, etc., of Edward Littelton*].

Henry Gerrard, aged 26 years, deposes [*as is contained in the answer, etc., of John Stanley.*]

John Wyrall of Lichfield, aged 48 years, butcher, deposes as Henry Gerard has deposed in every point till their meeting at Harlaston aforesaid, then he says the said John Stanley said to the jury "Masters

have ye been to my lordship of Clifton?" and they said "Yea," and he answered "I am content therewith, but as for you Edward Lytulton ye have trespassed upon my ground and I shall meet with you therefore."

Hugh Prykett of Lichfield, yeoman, William Clerk of Lichfield, taverner, Rauf Tatton of Lichfield, yeoman, William Grenewey, yeoman, and Walter Taylor, servants in the household of John Stanley say, in every point as Henry Gerrard has deposed.

Bundle 22, No. 8.

Gryffyth Tewe, aged 21 years and more, says that by command of his master Richard Lyttelton he went to Lichfield the Sunday after Michaelmas day last, and delivered the King's letters to William Clerk of Lichfield, vintner, wherein he and John Wyrall and Thomas Witam of the same were contained, and commanded them to appear before the King at the day and place contained in the said privy seal, and to give warning to all contained therein to appear. Afterwards the said Gryffythe went into the Chapel Church, and John Wyrall came to him there with 3 others. And this deponent said to him "I have delivered the King's commandment to William Clerk wherein ye be contained, go unto him and look at it." And Wyrall said "If thou have any commandment for me come into the field and serve it for I defy thee," bidding this deponent get out of the town. And he went into the street, and Henry Gerard and divers servants of the said John Stanley with staves and swords and threatened him, wherefore for fear he departed out of the town.

EGERTON *v.* BRERETON.

Bundle 34, No. 23.

Forasmuch as it is meritorious to every true Christian to testify the truth in matters that be in doubt. We, John Hollyns of Chedulton, co. Stafford, yeoman, James Wythurste of the same, yeoman, William Wodde of the same, yeoman, Thomas Wodde of the same, yeoman, Hugh Hasuls, Robert Hasuls, Richard Turner, Thrustan Grenehalgh, William Fyney, William Wall, John Cawsey, William Leke, William Brassyngton, William Fenton, William Bate, John Mounteforde, John Fenton, Rauffe Fenton, Lawrence Wheywall, Thomas Hethe, Geoffrey Challoner, John Malkyn, Thomas Forde, John Bagnall, Richard Newton, William Wodde the younger, Richard Bate, Hugh Bentley, Thomas Mosse, William Mounteforde, George Hasulhurste, of the same, [1516]

yeomen, Thomas Hethe of Horton, yeoman, William Hethe, John Mychell, William Wolstenholme, Hugh Michell, William Bradwall, Thomas Watson, Thomas Lee, of the same, yeomen, Thomas Sergiante of Bagnall, yeoman, William Forde of Jamyshalve (? Farnyshalve), yeomen, Richard Malkyn, yeoman, William Sherard [of[1] . . .], yeoman, Hugh Bentley of the same, William Malkyn, Humfrey Bulclowe, Raufe Porter, William Turnore, all of the same, Roger Stepulton, Thomas Malkyn, Henry Malkyn, of the same, John Wegwode, of the same, James Sutton, Rauffe Sutton, William Alote, Richard Godwyn, yeoman, all of the same, Lawrence Clowes of Wyldmore acre, yeoman, Thomas Byrchys of Myxston (Mixne), yeoman, John Bronley, Robert Bronley, yeomen, all of the same, William Bailly of Bradnope, yeoman, John Coke, Richard Holme, William Grenehalghe, William Goodwyn and Richard Goodwyn, all of the same, yeomen, depose that before the murder of Paunsfote committed by Thomas Hyde and other adherents and servants of Sir John Savage, knight, the said Thomas Hyde was never denisant or abiding in the lordship or township of *Leek*, where the said Sir John is steward by the grant of William Albeyn, Abbot of Deulacrese, or of one of his predecessors, but within the space of . . . after the feast of Easter last he came and abode in the said lordship; and at Whitsuntide last, rumour was in the lordship that the said Hyde was present at the murder of Paunsfote and consenting to the same, and that he was aided by the said Abbot, John Brereton and others, tenants of the said Abbot and Brereton, and that he could not have escaped untouched but by the special aid of the tenants and servants of the said Abbot and John Brereton, deputy steward to Sir John Savage.

Furthermore we, the above-named, testify that all times after the King's Commission to William Eggerton to take the said Hyde he endeavoured to . . . the said Thomas Hyde and others at the house of Hugh Hethe where he used to be, and at Richard Aleyn's and made so sharp in pursuing after the said Hyde that he was constrained to waive his horse, saddle and bridle and flee in secret way from the house of the said Aleyn to the house of Lawrence Plonte, tenant to the said Abbot. We testify that at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last, at Leek, John Brereton made alarm, whereby the the tenants of the Abbot in the Frythe and in the township of Leeke, to the number of 200, riotously assembled and went towards the house of William Wolstenholme, where the said William Eggerton was.

[1] Torn off.

Further we testify that the day next ensuing we came to Leek, to the house of one Swanne, to drink and make us merry, and there found William Eggerton with his chaplain and two of his household servants, and no more. Also the same day we saw the Abbot with 8 of his monks and other "temporal" men come from the house of Fernehalghe in Leek, near the house of the said Swanne, where he found John Bretan and a great company assembled in riotous manner and they both tarried before the said house an hour, with their weapons, and John Brereton shot an arrow through the window, where the said William sat. We saw the Abbot take his bow from his monk Whitney and take an arrow from under his girdle and nick it into his bow. Furthermore, an hour after their departing, John Brereton with two of his household servants, named William Brereton and James Carter, and divers servants of the said Abbot, to wit, John Ryder, Thomas Albyn, Rauffe Albyn, John Aleyn and others, to the number of 40, returned to the said town, to the house of John Fayrefylde, where were 30 more riotous persons of the adherents of the said Abbot and John Brereton, and after the said John Brereton had entered into the house, the said William Eggerton, with the said William Mountforte, William Fyney, William Milner his neighbours, issued forth out of the house of Farnniehalgh to which he came after the departing of the Abbot and Brereton, intending to repair to his house called the Walle Graunge, after whom the said Brereton with his company followed, and pursued in such manner that the said William Egerton and his company were compelled to enter the chancel of the parish church of Leeke, for the safeguard of his and our lives, and the aforenamed John Brereton, etc., continued the said assault until the day next ensuing, so that the said William Eggerton nor us his neighbours durst come forth of the said chancel. Also we record that two or three days after the said assault we saw trees, poles, and ladders thrown over the highway in Leek, where men used to pass, and the common saying was they were laid by the servants of the Abbot of Delucresse and John Brereton that no man should have course that way, to "peace" the said John Brereton and his company of their riotous act and intent to slay William Egerton. Moreover we, with Thrustane Bradshawe, clerk, record that after the entering into the chancel, William Egerton commanded me [*sic*] to depart to the Wall Graunge, and after I came forth of the said church, Richard North, servant to the Abbot, with others, would not suffer me the said Thrustane to depart homewards, but contrary to my will, led me as prisoner to the house of John Robyns, then constable at Leeke aforesaid, and there imprisoned me 48 hours.

I, Katherine Klowes record that at such time as William Egerton was by force kept in the said chancel, I, by command of his wife, came with meat and drink for him, and as I was coming in the fields of Leek divers persons pursued me for what intent I know not, but for fear of bodily harm I returned to the Wall Graunge, running as fast as I could, and after showing thereof to the wife of the said William Eggerton, she commanded me to go and speak with him to know what he would have her do for reformation of the said riot. So I came within 100 feet of the churchyard and then Lawrence Nappe and William Brereton, servants to the said John Brereton took me to the house of the aforenamed John Robyns and imprisoned me there 14 hours.

I, William Pylkyngton witness that on the Tuesday after the feast of St. Michael I came to Leek where I heard of that assault, and came to the church, comforting the said William Egerton, and as I departed, intending to have gone to my host's house, Thomas Albyn and Rauffe Albyn, brethren of the Abbot, took me with force and led me to the house of the said John Robyns, and there imprisoned me 12 hours.

We, John Hollyns, James Whythurste, and others above-named witness that on Wednesday in Easter week and Whitsuntide the said William Eggerton his wife and children, with his household servants came to the church of Leeke, and with no more persons except such as he met, and one John Galomar, servant to the said William in coming from the house of the said William and at such time as he walked in the fair the said two days, followed his master bearing in his hands a sallet and bill of his masters; and that after the "middys" of the said two days the said William was accompanied with his household servants and with us who accompanied him without his request that he by our power might be more able to assist the steward of the said town for the preservation of the King's peace there to be kept that same day, according to the ancient custom there by the space of 60 years and more, used by the said William, his father, and us and our ancestors. All which things we have witnessed in manner above specified at Leek 4 Jan : 8 Hen : VIII [1517].

Insomuch as it is meritorious for every true Christian to testify the truth in every doubt, We, John Shippton, Abbot of Hulton, and Ranulph Egerton, gentleman, Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and John Leghton, alderman of the same, and John Richardson, alderman of the same, with others testify that William Fenton, Richard Turnour, Tristan Grenehalgh, William Wall, Thomas Heth, Geffrey Chalinar, John Malken, John Bagnold, Humfrey Bulcloght, Henry Malken, Thomas Serjeant, Thomas Heth, John Mychchell [*sic*], William Heth,

William Bradwall, Hew Mychchill, Thomas Watson, Lawrence Clooes, Thomas Birch, and Richard Goodwyn, contained in a certain testimonial to these our writings annexed, examined of all the contents within the said testimonial, and not compelled, but of their own free will, offered themselves to swear upon a book, and so they did in the presence of us, that the said testimonial and everything contained in the same is good and true, and the aforesaid William Fenton, etc., have put their seals to the said testimonial, and so delivered it as their deed. In witness whereof, I, the said Abbot, have put my seal and subscribed my sign manuel etc., the 10th January 8 Henry VIII.

[*Many seals attached, one large one, only, still clear.*]

CORBET *v.* PARTERICH, ETC.

Bundle 26, No. 360.

Interrogatories on the part of Thomas Corbet, gentleman, against Thomas Parteriche, gentleman, Richard Kent, John Cockes and others, defendants.[1]

Richard Kent, of the age of 24 years, says, this 17th May in the [1518] 10th year, that whereas there has been controversy between the said parties, concerning a pasture in *Kyngs Bromley*, which by arbitrament has been occupied this last year between them, and they divided the hay between them, and before Sir Anthony Fitzherbert no agreement could be made between them, at the beginning of this year Corbet put into the said pasture 26 beasts and destroyed and ate the grass there. Then this deponent and John Cokes another servant of Partrich were sent by their master to drive the said cattle away, as a distress, on St. Mark's Day. They found two others keeping the ground, who would not suffer them to drive out the cattle. Upon the Sunday next this deponent and his fellow came again and began to drive the beasts, and Corbet and his servants came together and struck at this deponent, who defended himself, and he struck at one and broke his head. More he knows not.

Thomas Lynton, aged 30 years, says that when the servants of Corbett and Partryche came together, the Constable came to this deponent and others and charged them to go with him to see the peace kept. They met Corbett having a forest bill in his hand and another with him in harness, and another. The said Corbett said "Thou herison constable, whither go thou?" to whom the constable replied

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., pp. 83–8.

"To see the King's peace kept," and charged him to keep the King's peace, to whom the said Corbett said "Walke herison or I will strike of thy hede and of all that commyth with the," and upon that the Constable and the others departed. More he knows not save that after any death of such copyholder his son being within age, his next of kin shall not have him, except he come and agree with his lord.

William Crosse the younger, can depose nothing. He says that at this time John Acrosse was at Derby, Richard Traford was at church, Yeoman At Knollys was at church, and John Parkes also.

Humphrey Lynton, aged 39 years, says as Thomas Lynton has said.

Henry Benett was not privy to any of these things.

Richard Russell, aged 60 years, says about Easter last, being bailiff to Partryche, he went to drive the said cattle away from the said ground, but Corbet would not suffer them to go further. As to the rest of the matter he was not privy to it.

Thomas Lovat, aged 32 years, affirms the saying of Richard Kent to be true, for he dwelt directly against the place where this misdemeanour was supposed to be done.

WYTTERENCE *v.* DREYCOTE, ETC.

Bundle 26, No. 205.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1520] Your orator John Wytterence. Whereas Anthony Dreycote, clerk, John Dreycote, and William Dreycote, gentlemen, Thomas Johnson and Hugh Heyton with other evil disposed persons, 12th March in the 11th year of your reign, with force and arms and in riotous manner broke and entered the mansion place of your orator at *Chekley*, co. Stafford, and assaulted him so that he and all his folks in his house were in great fear of their lives. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the aforesaid persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[Endorsement] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster, on the Morrow of the Ascension.

[*The answer of Anthony Dreycote, etc.*]

. . . where the said Anthony is parson and curate, and at the same time Sir Thomas Wilgos, chaplain, that was at that time parish priest under the said Anthony of the church of Chekkeley, and Thomas Halley did show the said Anthony that there was variance between the said John Wytterence and Thomas Johnson, then was in company with

Anthony, John Dreycote and William; and futhermore, Sir Thomas Wilgose and Thomas Halley desired Anthony to help to "agree" them. Whereupon the said Anthony with John Dreycote and William, and Hugh Heyton, servant of Anthony, and Thomas Johnson, peaceably entered the house of John Wytterence and found him there, and the said John Wytterence welcomed them. Thereupon the said Anthony moved the said Wytterence to a concord between him and Johnson, and as soon as the said Wytterence heard him speak of that matter he said with ire that he would be agreed with him, but that he was false. The said Anthony, John Dreycote and William moved the said John Wytterence to pacify himself, but notwithstanding he would not be ordered, and perceiving that they departed out of the house, which is all the demeanours of the said Anthony Dreycot, John and William.

[*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

SAVAGE, ETC., *v.* GRESLEY.

Bundle 34, No. 32.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject John Savage the elder, knight, and Alice, his wife, late [1521-2] the wife of William Greseley, knight, deceased,[1] and executrix of the last will of the said Sir William, Anthony Greseley, Thomas Greseley, Humphrey Greseley, and Edward Greseley, natural sons of the said Sir William and Alice. Whereas the said Sir William caused certain estates in the most substantial manner that could be devised by the order of your laws, to be made by fine and recovery had before your justices of the Common Bench, to Sir John Burdet, knight, Thomas Sprott, gentleman, John Saunders, then household servant to Sir William, and others, to the intent they should be seized of all the manors, lands, etc., that the said Sir William had in cos. Stafford, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, and York, to the use of Sir William, and his heirs, to perform the last will of the said Sir William; and for the accomplishment of such estates, took the advice of divers discreet persons, learned in the law; and afterwards, by his last will, willed that the said Sir John, etc., immediately after his decease should be seised of his lands, etc., in co. Derby to the use of Alice his wife for term of her life, etc., and of his lands, etc., in co. Leicester, to the use of Thomas Gresley his second son, etc., and of his manor of Tutbury Wodhowsen and all his lands in Tutbury and Tutbury Wodhowsen, co. Stafford, to

[1] Sir Wm. Gresley died in 1521.

the use of the said Humphrey for term of his life, and of his lands, etc., in Blythebury and Blytheford, co. Stafford, to the use of the said Edward Greseley for term of his life, and of all his manors of Colton, Morton, Kynston, Hyscston, and of all his lands, etc., in Colton, Kynston, Morton, Hyscston, Burton-upon-Trent, Bromley Abbot, Loxley, Barton and Yoxall, co. Stafford, and the manors of Lullyngton, Castle Greseley and Lynton, co. Derby, to the use of the said Anthony his eldest son and of his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue, to Thomas his second son and of the heirs of his body, with divers like remainders over. He also willed his executors should take the revenues of his manor of Norton, co. Leicester, and of his manors of Bressyngbrugh, etc., co. Lincoln and Seyton, co. York, till they had received £300, to the use of his 3 youngest sons and towards the procurement of their marriage, that is to say to every of them £100 [remainder].

Whereas Sir John Greseley, priest, brother of Sir William, was seised of lands in Morton, co. Stafford, for term of life and Robert, another of his brethren, was seised of lands, etc., in co. Derby, for term of life and James Gresely another of his brethren was seised of lands, etc., in co. Derby for term of his life, and George Greseley another of his brethren was seised of lands in Morton, co. Stafford, for term of his life, which lands in all are of the yearly value of 40 marks, the reversion of all being in the said Sir John Burdett, etc., to the use of Sir William Greseley and his heirs, the said Sir William willed that after the [death] of all his said brethren, the said feoffees should be seised to the use of the said Anthony.

Item, the said Sir William caused many of the said feoffees to release all right they had in the premises to Thomas Sprott and John Saunders, to perform his last will, and then after, the said Sir William made the said Alice his executrix and died.

So it is that George Greseley one of the brethren of Sir William, intending to expel the said Alice from the use of the said lands, and to put the said Anthony, etc., from their uses in the premises, with John Saunders, has brought several writs of *formedone* against the said Thomas Sprott and John Saunders for the said manors of Norton, co. Leicester, and of Brassyngburgh, co. Lincoln, etc. And by colour of a feign deed of feoffment, surmised to be made by Sir John Greseley, knight, to Sir Henry Willoughby, knight, and others, dated 31 July 15 Edward IV, to the use of Sir John Greseley for term of his life, and after his decease to the use of Thomas Greseley and Anne his wife, etc., the said George Greseley, etc., [misdemeanours in co. Derby].

Item, whereas the said Sir William at the time of his death, left in his manor of Colton, co. Stafford, divers goods and chattels which after his decease belonged to your oratrix as executrix of the testament of the said Sir William, the said George Greseley has wrongfully taken all the said goods, and withholds them from your oratrix.

Whereas the said executrix has sued divers writs of *replegiar*, direct to the sheriff of co. Stafford, and Sir John Gyfford, being sheriff there and brother-in-law to the said George Greseley, has always deferred the execution of the same, notwithstanding he divers times promised to execute the same and caused the said executrix to send her servants to the sheriffs and their bailiffs, to pay the bailiffs' fees to have made deliverance thereof, to her great cost, and as yet no deliverance can be had. The said George has wrongfully taken from the said executrix 60 wainloads of peas and divers corns in the sheaf, left by her in the barns of Colton.

Item, whereas the said executrix caused 60 acres of land in the Manor of Colton to be sown with wheat and rye, the said George Greseley, Robert Greseley, and Sir Lewis Bagott, knight, have taken the said corn from your oratrix. Whereas your orator caused William Badyley, John Maskbury, Roger Adams, John Wygen and other tenants of the Manor of Colton to be distrained for their rents, and the same distresses would have impounded, the said Sir Lewis Bagott at the desire of George Gresely caused Thomas Forster forcibly to take the said distresses from the servants of your orators and to redeliver them to the said persons.

Item, on the vigil of St. Bartholomew in the 13th year of your reign, the said Sir Lewis Bagott at the desire of the said George caused the said Thomas Forster forcibly to take from your oratrix 4 oxen then at Colton, co. Stafford, and to drive them to Marston, co. Derby, and there use the oxen in ploughs. And when Thomas Blount servant to your oratrix came to have the said oxen again, one . . . Yell made assault upon the said Blount.

Item, etc. [in co. Derby].

So, through such grievous vexations and wrongs to your said oratrix and her poor children committed by the said George Greseley and by his means, they can have no remedy by your laws, and are in danger to be utterly undone, and wrongfully put from all their lands and livings for ever. In consideration whereof, please your highness to cause the said George Greseley, now in the city of London, to appear before the lord Thomas, legate, Archbishop of York, your Chancellor, of England and other lords of your Council, to answer to the premises.

The answer of George Gresley.

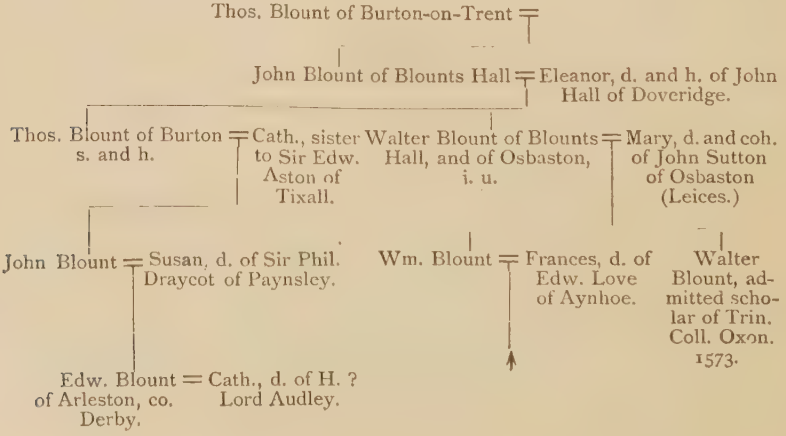
Says by protestation not knowing the said Sir William Gresley had any such sons Anthony Gresley, Thomas Gresley, Humfrey Gresley and Edward Gresley or that the said Anthony, Thomas, Humfrey and Edward were sons of the said Sir William. A long time before the birth of the said Anthony, etc., the said Sir William took to wife, Bennett, daughter of Sir Herry Vernon, knight, who continued long in lawful matrimony together as man and wife, during which espousal the said Dame Alice Savage bare the said Anthony, Thomas, Humfrey and Edward, the said Bennett being then alive, and the said Alice then and long before being reputed the wife of Simon Cottes who brought the said Alice out of Sussex and had two children with her, they living together as man and wife in Warwickshire, and yet are both alive. Wherefore the said George supposes he should not be put to answer to the said bill as sons of the said Sir William Gresley considering and also that Sir John Savage was never privy to the said bill, and that there are no such Anthony Gresley, Thomas Gresley, Humfrey or Edward Gresley, by the name of Gresley in *rerum natura* and also that the substance of all the contents of the said bill is untrue, etc. Further, he is not guilty of any riot, force, etc. The residue of the contents, if they were true as they are not, they are determinable at the Common Law, to which he prays to be remitted.

[BLUNT *v.* BOUGHEY.]

Bundle 24, No. 226.

[1523[1]] *The answer of Humphrey Boughey, Sebastian Boughey, Christopher*

[1] The following pedigree of these Blounts is taken from Nicholls, *Leicester*, Vol. V, p. 524.


Thos. Blount of Burton-on-Trent
John Blount of Blounts Hall
Eleanor, d. and h. of John Hall of Doveridge.
Thos. Blount of Burton s. and h.
Cath., sister to Sir Edw. Aston of Tixall.
Walter Blount of Blounts Hall, and of Osbaston, i. u.
Mary, d. and coh. of John Sutton of Osbaston (Leices.)
John Blount
Susan, d. of Sir Phil. Draycot of Paynsley.
Wm. Blount
Frances, d. of Edw. Love of Aynhoe.
Walter Blount, admitted scholar of Trin. Coll. Oxon. 1573.
Edw. Blount of Arleston, co. Derby.
Cath., d. of H. ? Lord Audley.

Boughey, William Tayllor, William Browne and Hugh Boughey to the bill of complaint of John Blunt.[1]

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to any riot, etc., or assault upon the said John Curtes, they are not guilty. As for the entry into the Hall Closse in *Anslow*, Humphrey Boughey says it is his freehold, and he finding 12 cows, 2 heifers, a bull feeding in the same, he took and distrained them, and drove them to Whytmore in the same shire, and impounded them there, as was lawful. Without that that the said close was put in view to the recognisances of the assize or is comprised within the same, or that John Blunt recovered the said close in assize against the said Humphrey, or that any of the said beasts were driven to any foreign shire, or sold, or that Christopher Boughey, etc., entered into the said close, or that any assault was made to the bailiff of Tutbury in executing any replevyn. As to entry into the Lount, Hugh and Christopher Boughey say that it is and was freehold of the said Humphrey by whose command they distrained the 8 oxen that were feeding there, and drove them to Whytmore and impounded them there, as was lawful. Of which 8 oxen, John Blunt has 2 again by a replevyn. Without that that any assault was committed to Thomas Byrt or Richard Alcock or that any of the persons named in the bill have been indicted of riot, as is alleged, or that anything in the said bill not traversed in this answer, is true.

CRUCHE *v.* BRADOCK.

Bundle 24, No. 357.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

Your orator Ralph Cruche. Whereas the church and parsonage of [1524]
Adbaston, co. Stafford, is annexed to the Dean and Canons of Lichfield cathedral, and Dr. Denton, being Dean of the same and seised of the said parsonage, made a lease of the same parsonage to Sir Richard Strete, Archdeacon of Shrewsbury, and to your orator to hold from the Feast of the Annunciation, 14 Henry VIII, to the end of 3 years, giving yearly to the Dean £10 13*s.* 4*d.*, and so from three years to three years during the pleasure of the Dean, Archdeacon and your orator; on Good Friday, 14 Henry VIII, Francis Braddok of Adbaston, esquire, came to the aforesaid church and finding Henry Cruche, brother to your orator, deputy of the said Archdeacon and your orator receiving tithings

[1] See Vol. 1910, p. 15.

of the parishoners of the said church, pulled him with force out of the chancel, and forced the parishoners by threats to pay to him all the tithings that were due. On Easter Monday your orator came to the said church to hear evensong and to speak with the said Braddok why he took the said tithes, and Braddock perceiving your orator in the church commanded the priest not to say any evensong, upon pain of his life, and caused all parishoners being there to "avoid" forth of the church. Wherefore your orator was compelled to depart out of the church, and the said Braddock after this, slanderously surmised throughout the country that your suppliant slew his servant, which servant is yet alive, by reason whereof Thomas Southley, who pretends to have *Catalla felonum* within the manor of Southley Hall (? Sowdley, co. Salop) where your orator dwells, by the incitation of the said Braddok seised all the goods of your orator and retained them to the great loss of your orator, till the said servant supposed to be murdered, at your suppliant's charge was brought from co. Derby to the Manor of Southley Hall and to the church of Cheswardyne, co. Salop. Further the said Braddock, 23rd August, 16th Henry VIII., assembled to him at Adbaston other evil disposed persons, with force and arms, and lay in wait to have murdered your orator, and assaulted Robert Garner, your orator's servant, lodging the tithe corn of your orator, and took away all the said corn, and yet detains it. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Francis Braddok, commanding him to appear to answer to the premises.

Bundle 24, No. 395.

The answer of Thomas Tayllour to the bill of complaint of Ralph Cruche.

The said bill is untrue, etc. Further he says that Franceys Braddok, esquire, in the bill named, at the time of the riot supposed to be done, occupied and held all the tithe corn in Flasbroke, and all the tithe corn and hay of the lands belonging to the Manor of Adbaston, co. Stafford, for certain years yet enduring, of the grant of the said Ralph Cruche, in the name of Dr. Denton his master, parson of Adbaston, and hired the said Thomas Tayllour to carry certain loads of the said tithe corn belonging to his said farm of Adbaston and Flasbroke, which your orator so did. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. Without that that the said tithe corn appertains to the said Ralph.

RYCHARDSON *v.* MILLWARD.

Bundle 31, No. 103.

To the moost reverent fatther in God, Thomas Lord Cardynall legate a late Archbisshop of Yorke and Chauncellour of Inglond.

Your orator was seised in right of Margaret his wife, now deceased, [1524] of 24 acres of arable land, six acres mead, four acres of pasture and 5 acres of wood in *Penkhyll, Clayton and Schebrigge* (Seabridge), co. Stafford, and so seised by the space of 4 years, until the day of the Annunciation of Our Lady in the 16th year of the now Lord the King, by the procurement of Robert Mylward, certain riotous persons, that is to say Randolph Terlyke, Richard Pason, Richard Terlyke, John Standley with others, with force and arms entered and put out your orator of all the said premises, to the use of the said Randulffe and Richard Pason and their heirs, since which they wrongfully detain the same lands of your orator, he being tenant by the courtesy of England. In consideration whereof please your grace to grant a *subpena* to be directed to the said Robert, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster on the quindene of St. John the Baptist next to be.

STANLEY *v.* MASSY, ETC.

Bundle 25, No. 58.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

Your orator Humphrey Stanley, clerk, was and is very owner of the [1525] manor of *Aston beside Stone*, co. Stafford, for term of his life, by lease of Sir Richard Chamley (Cholmondeley) and Sir Ralph Egerton, knights. So it is that Thomas Massy of Yerdington, co. Warwick, esquire, John Massy of the same, gentleman, Robert Lydyet of the same, yeoman, Richard Key, yeoman, Thomas Grene, William Rogers, of the same, yeomen, and William Clyff of Biston, co. Stafford, yeoman, 7th July 17 [Henry VIII.] with force and arms entered your orator's close called Ox Lesow, parcel of the manor aforesaid, and drove into another shire, 7 oxen of orator's cattle, and yet detain them. Wherefore please your highness to award several writs of *subpena* to be directed to Thomas Massy, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsement.*] Before the lord the King and his Council at Westminster, at three weeks from Easter next.

SMITH *v.* SMITH.

Bundle 26, No. 240.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

[1526] Your orator John Smyth of Lapp[eley], co. Stafford, yeoman, son and [heir] of William Smyth of Lappeley, deceased. Whereas Enye Smyth gra[ndfather] of the said William Smyth was seised of 3 messuages, 2 cottages, one toft, a yard and 7 acres of land in *Lappeley*, by copy of court roll of the Warden of Tong, as of his manor of Lappeley; after whose death the premises descended to your orator, as next heir, that is to say, son of William, son of Richard, son of John, son and heir of the said Enye. So it is John Smyth of Lappeley late deceased, the elder, yeoman, wrongfully after the death of Enye occupied the premises, by force whereof your orator affirmed a plaint against him in the court of Lappeley before the steward of the same court, in form of a writ of "*cosynage*." Whereupon at a court held at Lappeley, November in the 18th. year of your reign, were elected John Burne, William Adams, Thomas Adams, Henry Flemyng, Richard Huntbache, Richard Wylde, Robert Donstons, Thomas Noke, Thomas Sawyer, Henry Sawyer, Roger Mylward, and John Scutto, tenants within the lordship of Lappeley, to try the said issue before Richard Underhill steward of the said court. The said John Burne and William Adams head men of the said jury, by labour of John Smyth the elder and his sons John Smyth and Jenkyn Smyth and by reason of a false writing there showed persuaded their fellows to give a verdict contrary to right, that is to say they gave their verdict that the said John Smyth the elder had more right in his tenancy, than the said John Smyth demandant, had in his demand. Of these wrongs your orator exhibited a bill against the said John Smyth and the jurors and steward, and a commission was directed to Sir John Gifford, knight, and others to examine the said parties upon the matter in variance. So it is that since that time, John Smyth the elder is deceased, and his son John Smyth after his death wrongfully entered into the said premises with the said Jankyn Smyth, and wrongfully keep them by maintenance of Roger Fowke, gentleman, greatly allied in that country and learned in the law, contrary to all right. Which Fowke was before this time counsel to your orator, and received 9*s.* for his counsel against John Smyth deceased, since whose decease he has bought the title of John Smyth the son, albeit he has not yet possession of the same, by reason of which maintenance your orator being a poor man is likely to be kept out of the possession of the premises for ever. Please your highness to grant a commission to some worshipful

men inhabiting in those parts, to examine the premises, and to determine the matter if they can, or to enjoin the said parties to appear before you to obey such order as by you shall be decreed.

OSBORNE *v.* HARECOURT.

Bundle 27, No. 100.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

Your poor subject Robert Osborn of Gnowsall, co. Stafford, that [1526] whereas one Thomas Garmyston, the 23rd March in the 13th year of your reign demised one messuage, one cottage, 14 acres of pasture in the parish of *Gnowsall*, to your subject, for 21 years then next ensuing, paying therefor yearly to the said Thomas 15*s.* 10*d.*, your orator entered into the premises and occupied the same till this present day. Howbeit Leonard Harecurt, gentleman, about 3 years last past, with force and arms riotously entered a close containing 3 acres of the aforesaid land, and destroyed the pasture thereof, and sowed and afterwards mowed the crop thereof, and never would make recompense therefor to your subject, or to the said Thomas his landlord. Further the said Leonard, to impoverish your orator, his wife and three small children, without any just cause, the 16th April last past entered another close of your orator and with force took and drove away two cows there, and withholds them in hiding so that no replevy can be made for them. The said Leonard, of his further malice of late took and set your orator in prison and in the stocks and irons of Gnowsall and there kept him two days, and after released him threatening him that he would put him in such prison as no friends should labour for him, except he would release to him his lease of the premises. Therefore please your highness to command that the premises be examined by your council, and that thereupon they be restored to the right of your orator in the premises.

The answer of Leonard Harecourt.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. Julian, late wife of Rafe Wright was seised of the said lands and so seised took to husband William Garmeston. They had issue between them the said Thomas Garmeston in the said bill named, and afterwards Julian died and William held the said lands by courtesy of England, and 10th December, 3 Henry VIII. made a lease of the said lands, etc., to Leonard Harecourt to have during as many years as the said William and Leonard should live together, paying yearly 15*s.* 10*d.* By force thereof the said Leonard

was possesed thereof, until 13 Henry VIII., the said Robert Osburne wrongfully put out the said Leonard from the said lands, upon which unlawful entry Robert was indicted, whereupon the said Leonard sued the common law against Robert, and never could have answer made to his actions. The said Leonard peaceably ploughed and sowed the said ground, and distrained the said two cows for damage and put them in pound. They continued in pound three days and no replevy was sued, thereupon the said Leonard, lest the said cattle should die, put them to pasture, where he may replevy them if he will. Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, one of the King's justices of his Common Bench, and Thomas Partryche, justice of the peace in co. Stafford, directed a warrant of *good abeyryng* "against and the Robert, whereupon . . . under-bailiff . . . to the Bishop of Chester within the town of Gnosall attached the same Robert and kept him . . . [*Traverses the rest of the bill*].

To the King's Council at Westminster, 13 *Henry VIII.*

We, Walter Wrottisley, Thomas Staunford, and Roger Clerke, commissioners by virtue of the King's commission directed to us, have called before us the parties in the bill of complaint named, at Gnowsall, the 28th May, 18 Henry VIII. Both parties appeared, and Leonard Harecourt desired a copy of the said bill and a reasonable day to make his answer, which we granted. The said Leonard showed us he had a lease of William Garmeston, of the house the plaintiff now dwells in. The aforesaid Garmeston utterly denied that he made a lease to the said Leonard, who said again that an award was given by Sir John Salter, that the said Leonard should have the taking and setting of the said house. The said Leonard could show no writing, therefore, the parties appeared before us at Brude (Brewood), 11th June next following, and the said Leonard brought his answer hereto annexed, to which answer he is not yet sworn, nor has he brought forth any record against the articles in the bill of complaint. Therefore we desired the said Leonard to let your orator have his house and to deliver his cows again, but he would not deliver them. Your orator offered to be bound in an obligation of £100, with him to abide the award of us, and the aforesaid Leonard would take no way with him. Wherefore we beseech your grace that this matter may be remitted to your honourable Council, that the parties may appear before them to know their end.

In Witness whereof, etc.

Walter Wrottysley.

[*Other signatures torn away.*]

HARCOURTE *v.* PRIOR OF RONTON.

Bundle 30, No. 28.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator, John Harcourt of Ronton, co. Stafford, esquire. [1526] Whereas your orator is seised of a certain mill in *Ronton* called Ronton Mill, and all his ancestors, whose estate he has in the same mill, have ever had and used to have a certain course of water from a well in Rounton, aforesaid, called Whitley Welle, to a pool called Sydnall Poole; and from thence to a meadow called Stone Wall meadow; and from thence to Bakehouse Pool; and from thence to the Abbey Mill; and from thence to the mill of your orator called Runton Mill, for the continuance of the same mill; in the 18th year of your reign Thomas Alton, Prior of the monastery of Our Lady of Rounton, with others at Rounton, made a ditch in the King's highway whereby the said course was turned from the mill of your orator, which was then like to have been to the destruction of the mill. Your orator complaineth to your highness in your court of Chancery, whereupon a writ of *subpena* was directed to the said Prior, to appear, etc.

[*Same bill as in suit No.* 317, *Bundle* 25.]

PRIOR OF HULTON *v.* EDGE, ETC.

Bundle 21, No. 230.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator John, Abbot of the monastery of Our Blessed Lady of [1528] Hulton, co. Stafford. Richard Inkpene and Anne his wife,[1] being seised in right of Anne, of 2 parts of a pasture called *Horton Hey in Horton*, co. Stafford, and a smithy there, let the same to Sir William Brereton of Brereton, co. Chester, knight, to hold from the feast of the Purification, 18 Henry VIII., for a term of 40 years, yielding yearly therefor, £11 4*s.* 0*d.* And the said Sir William, so being seised demised the same to your orator with all tools and implements in the said smithy necessary for the making of iron, from Michaelmas, 19 Henry VIII., for a term of 13 years, by virtue whereof your orator occupied the same till 21st May, 20 Henry VIII. (1528), when Christopher Egge of Horton aforesaid, yeoman, Richard Sugge (Egge?) of the same, yeoman, William Wolsonholme of the same, labourer, John

[1] Anne was probably a daughter of John Touchet Lord Audley, b. 1483, d. 1557. She was the widow of George Twyneoo, when she married Ric. Inkepen.

Michell of Crawborowe, co. Stafford, yeoman, Richard Michell of the same, labourer, William Maot of Grotton, co. Stafford, labourer, William Smyth of the same, carrier, Hugh Heth of Horton, yeoman, John Brounte of the same, labourer, Thomas Bidulphe of Blakwode, co. Stafford, yeoman, Richard Maot of Horton, yeoman, John Maot the younger of Grotton, labourer, Thomas Watson of Grotton, yeoman, Thomas Leigh of Horton, yeoman, with force and arms entered the said smithy and took away the smith-wheels; and after, 23rd May, in the same year, broke the wheel which your orator had newly made, and burned and wasted 2 loads of charcoal, and destroyed such tools as were then in the smithy; and the same persons, 25th June next, broke the said wheel which your orator had repaired and cast down the "blow hearth," and most of the walls of the smithy. Also, 4th July, the same riotous persons came to the smithy and burned and destroyed one wainload of charcoal, and destroyed the residue of such tools as are necessary for the making of iron, and 2nd August burned 2 loads of charcoal of your orator, and pulled down the residue of the walls of the said smithy, to the great loss of your orator. And albeit your orator at divers sessions of the peace held in co. Stafford, has put up divers bills concerning the said riots unto such inquests as there were empanelled to enquire for your highness; notwithstanding, by reason of the friendship the said riotous persons have in co. Stafford, the said bill would not be found; and the said riotous persons, to cloak their offences have falsely caused your orator and divers of his brethren to be indited. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to them to appear before you to answer to the premisses.

[*Endorsed.*] Let the parties within suited be called by writ of *subpena* to appear before the King and his Council at Westminster on the quindene of St. Martin next.

By command of the Right Reverend father in God,
Cardinal and Chancellor of England, 5th November.[1]

RUGELEY *v.* KNIGHT, ETC.

Bundle 25, No. 104.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1529] Your orator, William Rugeley, yeoman of your "wardroppe of your beddys." Whereas Sir Edward Belknappe, knight, being general

[1] Cardinal Wolsey was requested to deliver up the Great Seal on November 3, 1529, so that this writ must have been in 1528.

surveyor of your lands by virtue of an act of Parliament 7 Henry VIII., by an indenture dated 13th October, 8 Henry VIII., demised to Marten Ardurne, your manor of *Pyrryber (Perry Barre)*, co. Stafford, for a term of 21 years, 10 Henry VIII.; Henry Knyght made instance to Sir John Daunce, knight, Bartholomew Westby and Robert Blayn, then being your general surveyors, after the said Belknappe was discharged, surmising that the said manor remained in your hands, to make a grant of the said lordship to the said Henry Knight for a term of 21 years; by reason whereof and by maintenance of Sir Henry Willoughby, knight,[1] who bore great rule in that county, and did not love the said Martin Ardurn, the said Henry Knight entered the premises and put the said Martin out of his possession. The said Martin came to London and showed Sir Edward Belknappe that Henry Knight had obtained a grant of the said lordship; who hearing the premises took the indenture by him made to the said Martin, and went to the surveyors before named, sitting at Blackfriars at the audit time; whereunto they answered that if the said Sir Edward had made any such lease, then the lease made to Henry Knight was void, and the said Martin by their order, did enter into the lordship again, and was peaceably possessed until 21 Henry VIII., when the said Martin sold his title therein to your orator. The said Henry Knight made Roger Knyght his executor, and afterwards died, after whose death the said Roger came to the said Sir John Daunce, and by a feigned surmise obtained a privy seal against the said Martin for wrongful occupying the said lordship, and the said William Rugeley hearing thereof, went to the said surveyors and showed them the lease made to the said Martin, and "quyttonsis" made by Thomas Slade your receiver, of the "incressie" of the said lands. Notwithstanding, the said Roger, by maintenance of Sir Henry Willoughby, caused your tenants of the said lordship to put a bill of complaint to the said Sir John Daunce against the said Martin Audern surmising Sir Henry Willoughby to be steward to the said lordship, and that Martin, being bailliff thereof would not be ready to attend at such times as Sir Henry appointed, to make the panel, according to his office, to their great loss. Your orator having the interest of Martin answered thereto, and four commissioners did examine the matter, and upon their certificate Sir John Daunce and John Hallys, one of the Barons of your Exchequer, determined that the said William Rugeley should make steward whom he would, for all things comprised in his indenture, and for all things out of his indenture

[1] See chart pedigree on p. 29.

reserved to your highness they appointed Sir Edward Willoughby, steward. The said Sir Edward appointed Court to be held in this lordship at a certain day, and because the said William could not be present because he had business in his office of your "Wardroppe of Bedis," he sent word to John Redhede his deputy to be ready, to make the panel. The said Sir Edward refused to admit the said deputy, and put in Roger Knyght as bailiff, and the said William Rugeley having knowledge thereof went to Thomas Slade your receiver, and paid him the half year's rent and took his "quyttons" thereof, notwithstanding that he had not gathered any part of the same half year's rent of the tenants of the lordship, but was suffered to gather no penny of the same, by Roger Knyght. Wherefore the said William sued a *scire facias*, directed to the sheriff of co. Stafford, out of your court of Chancery, whereunto the said Roger answered that Sir Edward Belknappe did not demise the said manor to Martin, and a jury returned by the sheriff of co. Middlesex found that Sir Edward, by the said deed, demised the said manor to Martin for 21 years. Notwithstanding, whereas John Smalwode, late of Pyrrybar, yeoman, is tenant to your grace according to the custom of the said manor, of certain lands called Blockynghyll, and of certain charter lands, paying yearly £3 13*s.* 0*d.*, and forasmuch as 36*s.* 6*d.* of the said rent was not paid, 19 Henry VIII., Thomas Rugeley, brother of your orator, and Thomas Flecher, servant to your orator, 20th June, 20 Henry VIII., at Pyrrybar, took and distrained upon the said land 8 cows and 3 steers of the cattle of the said Smalwode, to put them in the pound for non-payment of the said rent. So it is that the said John Smalwode, Richard Gayton, gentleman, Thomas Bromwyche, yeoman, Thomas Burglyn, yeoman, and other riotous persons by the procurement of Roger Knyght, gentleman, with swords and other weapons, the said 20th June, riotously took away the said 8 cows and 3 steers from Thomas Rugeley and Thomas Flecher, contrary to your peace and to the peril and [*no ending*].

[*Endorsement.*] Easter, 21st.

EGERTON *v.* WYLLOUGHBY.[1]

Bundle 23, No. 310.

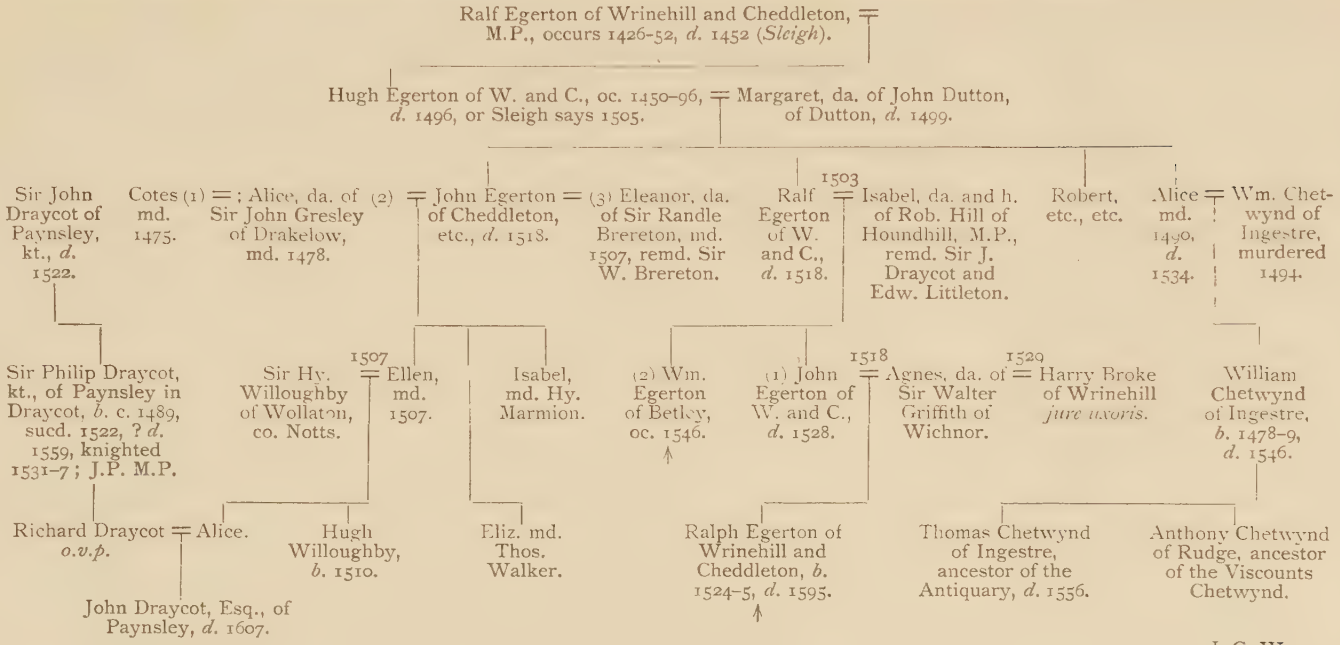
To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1529] Your oratrix Agnes Egerton, late wife of John Egerton, esquire, deceased. Whereas Robert Folleshurst, clerk, and William Chetwynd were

[1] See pedigree, p. 29.

See also Suits given in Vol. X, i, N.S., pp. 121, 143, 180; and in Vol. 1910, pp. 16, 58, and in this Vol., pp. 28, 33, 46, 143.

The relationships of the various suitors and witnesses in all these actions are shown in the subjoined chart pedigree:—


Ralf Egerton of Wrinehill and Cheddleton, M.P., occurs 1426-52, d. 1452 (Sleigh).
Hugh Egerton of W. and C., oc. 1450–96, d. 1496, or Sleigh says 1505.
Margaret, da. of John Dutton, of Dutton, d. 1499.
Sir John Draycot of Paynsley, kt., d. 1522.
Cotes md. 1475.
(1) = ; Alice, da. of Sir John Gresley of Drakelow, md. 1478.
(2)
John Egerton of Cheddleton, etc., d. 1518.
(3) Eleanor, da. of Sir Randle Brereton, md. 1507, remd. Sir W. Brereton.
1503
Ralf Egerton of W. and C., d. 1518.
Isabel, da. and h. of Rob. Hill of Houndhill, M.P., remd. Sir J. Draycot and Edw. Littleton.
Robert, etc., etc.
Alice md. 1490, d. 1534.
Wm. Chetwynd of Ingestre, murdered 1494.
Sir Philip Draycot, kt., of Paynsley in Draycot, b. c. 1489, sucd. 1522, ? d. 1559, knighted 1531–7; J.P. M.P.
Sir Hy. Willoughby of Wollaton, co. Notts.
1507
Ellen, md. 1507.
Isabel, md. Hy. Marmion.
(2) Wm. Egerton of Betley, oc. 1546.
(1) John Egerton of W. and C., d. 1528.
1518
Agnes, da. of Sir Walter Griffith of Wichnor.
1529
Harry Broke of Wrinehill jure uxoris.
William Chetwynd of Ingestre, b. 1478–9, d. 1546.
Richard Draycot o.v.p.
Alice.
Hugh Willoughby, b. 1510.
Eliz. md. Thos. Walker.
Ralph Egerton of Wrinehill and Cheddleton, b. 1524–5, d. 1595.
Thomas Chetwynd of Ingestre, ancestor of the Antiquary, d. 1556.
Anthony Chetwynd of Rudge, ancestor of the Viscounts Chetwynd.
John Draycot, Esq., of Paynsley, d. 1607.

J. C. W.

seised of the manor of *Chedelton*, co. Stafford, to the use of John Egerton and his issue male, after whose death the said manor descended to Rauffe Egerton son and heir of John, being then about the age of ¾ years, your oratrix as natural mother of Rauffe by the assent of the said Robert and William ever since the death of her husband took the profits of the said manor until now, 19th September, 21 Henry VIII. Hugh Wylloughby late of Myddelton, co. Warwick, esquire, Hugh Sheppard of the same, yeoman, John Jenkys of the same, yeoman, Richard Brok of the same, yeoman, William Baxletar of Gowseworth, co. Chester, yeoman, Richard Morres of Kyngley, co. Stafford, yeoman, Richard Ford of Chedulton, chaplain, John Hollyes of Moseley, co. Stafford, yeoman, Robert Homersley of Bothon, co. Stafford, yeoman, William Hollyes of Moseley, labourer, Rauffe Holles of the same, labourer, William Moumford the elder, of the same, husbandman, William Moumford the younger, labourer, Rauffe Moumford of the same, labourer, John Bagnald of the same, husbandman, Hugh Bagnald of the same, labourer, Thomas Bagnald of the same, labourer, Rauffe Bentley of Bothon, labourer, Thomas Hollyes of Cunsall, co. Stafford, labourer, John Broke of Myddylton, co. Warw., yeoman, William Wode of Barysford, the younger, co. Stafford, husbandman, William Hode of Cunsall, yeoman, Robert Johnson of Chedulton, labourer, Hugh Bagnall the elder, of the same, husbandman, John Bagnall the younger, of the same, labourer, Robert Hode of Cunsall, labourer, Richard Wollaston of the same, yeoman, William Bagnald of Chedulton, labourer, Thomas Moumford of Barisford, husbandman, John Forde of Cunsall, labourer, Richard Bagnall of Chedulton, labourer, John Homersley of the same, labourer, William Coke of Cunsall, husbandman, Richard Newton of Cheddulton, husbandman, John Coke the younger of Cunssall, labourer, Robert Walker of Gowseworthe, co. Chester, yeoman, William Johnson of the same, yeoman, John Brereton of Leke, co. Stafford, esquire, Thomas Brough of the same, yeoman, with divers others, in riotous manner with force and arms, 19th September, 21 Henry VIII., by the procurement of Philip Dracote, esquire, entered into the chief mansion place of the said manor and in the garden of the same, and wrongfully disseised the said Robert Folleshurst and William Chetwyn, and expelled your oratrix and will not suffer her to take the issues and profits thereof. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said Hugh Willoughbye, Philip Dracote and others abovenamed, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

Bundle 14, No. 41A.

The answer of Philip Draycott, esquire, John Holyns, yeoman, William Hode, yeoman, Richard Morres, yeoman, Robert Homarsley, yeoman, Richard Wolaston, yeoman, William Munfort, yeoman, John Bagnall, yeoman, and Richard Newton, yeoman, William Woode, to the bill of complaint of Agnes Egerton, widow.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. The rest of the contents of the said bill, are determinable at the common law, and not in this court.

Bundle 14, No. 42.

The replication of Agnes Egerton.

The said bill is true, etc., and the said defendants guilty of the said riot.

Bundle 24, No. 47.

Interrogatories for the part of Agnes Egerton, to examine Philip Draycott, John Hollyns, Robert Homersley, Hugh Wylloughby, esquire, and others, defendants.

Hugh Willoughby, gentleman, aged 19 years, sworn 27th November, says that on the Wednesday before the feast of St. Michaél last, having only a dagger, with Robert Homersley, John Hollyns, John Bagnall entered into the capital messuage of Chedulton and left five of his servants there to keep the same. He sent to the tenant of the said messuage, without counsel of Draycote, to know whether the said tenant would be content to return to this deponent or not. Which tenant answered that he was content, whereupon this deponent entered as is aforesaid. He lay the night before he entered the said capital messuage, at Peynesley, co. Stafford, in the house of Philip Draycott, about 4 miles from Chedulton.

Philip Draycott, esquire, aged 40 years, says that, forasmuch as his son has married the sister of Hugh Willoughby, who for default of issue should inherit the said land, therefore this deponent willed Robert Homersley, John Hollyns and other tenants in Chedulton to become tenants of Hugh Willoughby. Forasmuch as Hugh entered into the said messuage, being but a poor farmer's house, he sent to this deponent's house, and his wife in his absence sent him beds and certain vessels, he not having any knowledge of the same.

John Holyns, aged 36 years, says that he saw the entry of Hugh into the said messuage, without harness, and weapons. Draycott was not at home at the time of the said entry, therefore was not privy to it.

Robert Homersley, aged 30 years, says he dwells within three "flight shote" of the church, was with Hugh Willoughby at his entering, alone, to the same house, having no bow nor arrows, nor other weapon but a staff in his hand.

Ralph Heywoode, aged 30 years, says the said Hugh Willoughby on the day mentioned with four of his servants, having bows and arrows, entered the said messuage with force and strength. Eleven persons entered with him to keep the house, and they had the weapons aforesaid and "jakkes." He was in the house at the time of the said entry and the said Hugh Willoughby desired him to give him possession and he would give him 40*s.* for his labour and when he denied so to do, they threatened him.

Robert Mountford, aged 24, says he was not there at the time of the said entry. He was desired by Robert Amersley [Homersley] to go to helpe Willoughby to keep possession of the said house, and this deponent answered that he was very loth to go. About "Pancryche fayer" he saw in the same house, to the number of 60 persons keeping the said house having weapons.

William Serjeaunt, aged 32 years, says [as above].

John Feneawe, aged 35 years, says that being a miller dwelling near the said house, saw Willoughby and his servants, with bows and arrows and swords and bucklers enter the said house.

James Owestnom, [Wolsenam] aged 30 years, says he thinks Draycote was of the said house, saw Willoughby. Also he says that, on the Saturday next after the said entry, Hugh Willoughby and 8 or 10 with him came to the church of Chedulton to evensong, having swords and bucklers, and having harness upon them.

William Cassey, aged 50 years, sworn, says as Ralph Heywoode has deposed.

Edward Fenney, aged 23 years, answers as Ralph Heywoode has deposed.

William Bressyngton, aged 50 years, says he was not present at the time of the said entry. One John Howlens, Willoughby's servant said to this deponent, "thou must be my master's catour or provyder for mete four or five days," which to do he utterly refused.

John Taylor, aged 50 years, says [as above].

Ralph Fenton, aged 40 years, says [as above].

Bundle 24, No. 135.

The replication of Agnes Egerton to the answer of Hugh Willoughby.

The said Willoughby and others named in the said bill, with force

entered the said mansion place of Chedulton and the garden and orchard thereto belonging, and is guilty of the said riot as is alleged. Without that that the premises lawfully descended to the said Hugh and other coparcenors by inheritance after or by the death of the said John Egerton of Wrynehill, by reason of any old entail of the premises made to the ancestors of Hugh, and that anything in the answer is material to be replied to.

SAVAGE *v.* WILLUGHBY.

Bundle 29, No. 110.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Lawrence Savage, esquire. Whereas Robert Folleshurst, [1529] clerk, and William Chetwyn were seised of a pasture called *Cheddulton Park* in Chedulton, co. Stafford, amongst other lands to the use of John Egerton, esquire, now deceased, and the heirs males of his body begotten, and the said John Egerton with the consent of the said feoffees, 16th March, in the 20th year of your reign, let the said pasture to your orator for one year, and so from year to year, as it pleases the parties, paying therefor yearly 51*s.* 8*d.*, by force whereof your orator entered into the said pasture and the same peaceably occupied until of late Hugh Willoughby of Myddulton, co. Warwick, esquire, William Egerton of the same, gentleman, Richard Morres of Kyngeley, co. Stafford, yeoman, with other riotous persons, 2nd August in the 21st year of your reign, broke into the said pasture, and with force drove away 25 beasts, the price £24, of the goods and chattels of your orator, into another county, to the great loss of your orator insomuch as he can have no delivery of the said beasts to him by replevy. In consideration, etc.

SAVAGE *v.* BROKE.[1]

Bundle 33, No. 33.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Lawrence Savage, gentleman. Whereas John Egerton, [1531] deceased, was lawfully seised of a pasture called *Chetelton Park*, co. Stafford, and to farm let the same to your orator from the feast of the Annunciation, in the 19th year of your reign, for a term of 12 years, paying therefor yearly 6*s.* 8*d.*, by force whereof your orator was lawfully

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 121, 180, and for the *Answer* of Harry Broke and date, see *postea* p. 143.

possessed, till now of late, Henry Broke,[1] gentleman, John Masse of Chetelton, yeoman, William Case of the same, yeoman, James Wolsenam of the same, yeoman, Richard Watson of the same, yeoman, William Brassyngton of the same, yeoman, with other riotous persons, with force and arms entered into the said pasture and took 30 beasts of your orator. Further, the aforesaid riotous persons, 8th May last, riotously and with force entered the aforesaid pasture and took 7 other beasts of your orator, all which beasts, Henry Broke has driven into co. Chester, and other parts unknown, so that your orator cannot have replevy made of them. Please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council, at Westminster, on the octave of Holy Trinity next to be.

JAS. LEVESON *v.* THOS. LEVESON.

Bundle 21, No. 241.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1529] Your subject James Leveson, merchant of the Staple of Calais. Whereas John Algar, clerk, *Prebendary of Fetherston* co. Stafford, 10th March 16 Henry VIII. (1525), at Wolverhampton demised to John Couper, chaplain, his said prebend with the glebe lands, tithes and other profits thereto belonging, for the term of 5 years yielding therefor yearly £6 13*s.* 4*d.*; whereof the said John Couper, at Wolverhampton, 13 March next following, granted to your subject 15 acres of pasture of the said glebe land for the said term, paying yearly therefor 100*s.* And your subject so being thereof possessed, Thomas Leveson, gentleman, William Gesselyng (Gosling) and Thomas More, and others, 11th August 21 Henry VIII. (1529), with force and arms entered in the said pasture, and hewed in pieces a gate and the "winch wase" set in the said pasture for defence of the same. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Leveson, etc., to appear before you.

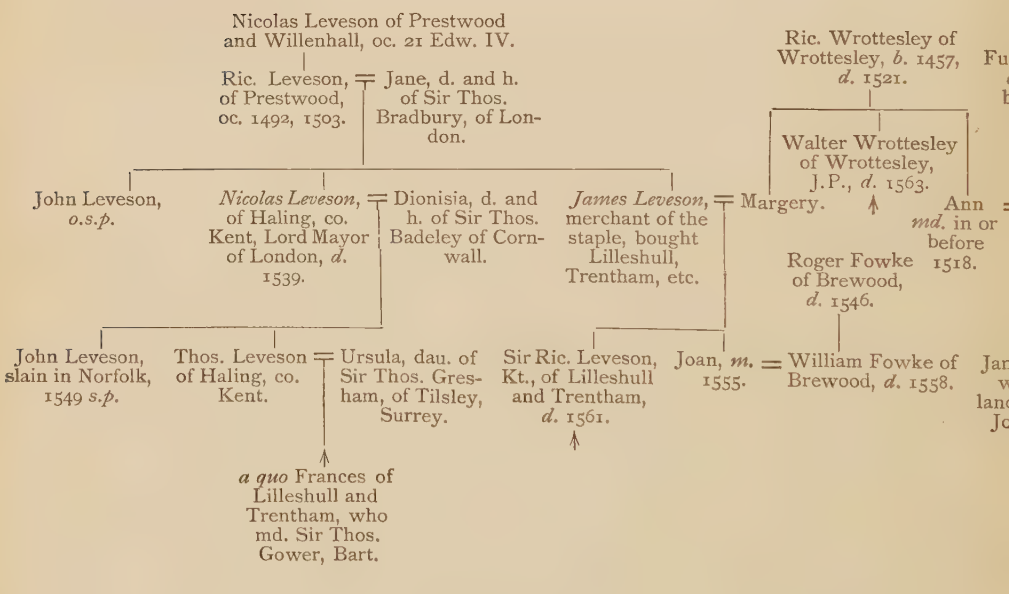
The answer of Thomas Leveson, gentleman, William Gaslyng, and Thomas More.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc., and the matter therein grounded of malice. The said Thomas knows no such lease made to

[1] See chart pedigree on p. 29.

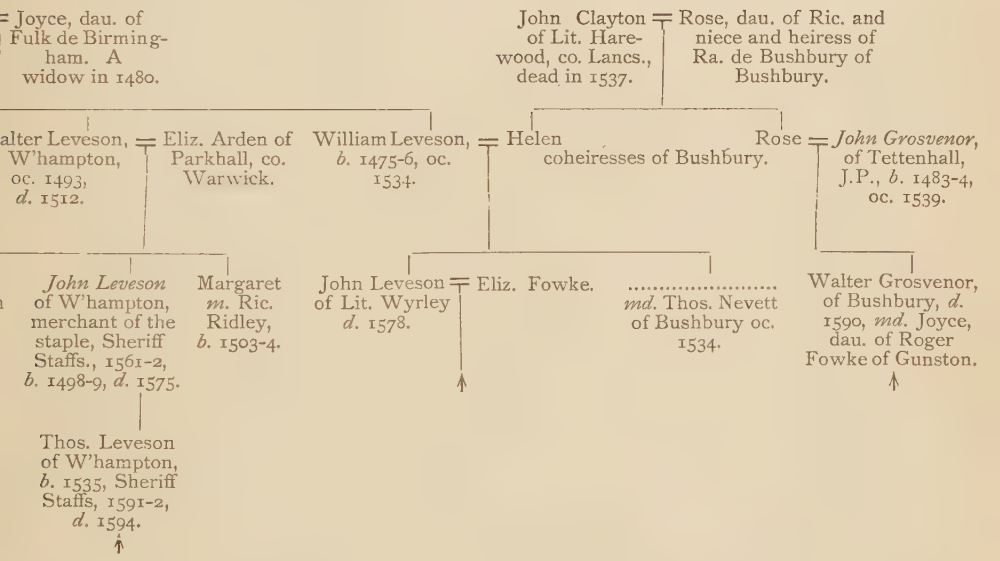
[1] As there are over a dozen suits in which the Levesons occur in these Star Chamber Records, the only sixth cousins, in the male line, of Thomas and John Leveson of the senior line of Wolverhampton.

LEVESON OF WILLENHALL AND TRENTHAM.


Nicolas Leveson of Prestwood and Willenhall, oc. 21 Edw. IV.
Ric. Leveson, of Prestwood, oc. 1492, 1503.
Jane, d. and h. of Sir Thos. Bradbury, of London.
Ric. Wrottesley of Wrottesley, b. 1457, d. 1521.
Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley, J.P., d. 1563.
John Leveson, o.s.p.
Nicolas Leveson, of Haling, co. Kent, Lord Mayor of London, d. 1539.
Dionisia, d. and h. of Sir Thos. Badeley of Cornwall.
James Leveson, merchant of the staple, bought Lilleshull, Trentham, etc.
Margery.
Ann md. in or before 1518.
Roger Fowke of Brewood, d. 1546.
John Leveson, slain in Norfolk, 1549 s.p.
Thos. Leveson of Haling, co. Kent.
Ursula, dau. of Sir Thos. Gresham, of Tilsley, Surrey.
Sir Ric. Leveson, Kt., of Lilleshull and Trentham, d. 1561.
Joan, m. 1555.
William Fowke of Brewood, d. 1558.
a quo Frances of Lilleshull and Trentham, who md. Sir Thos. Gower, Bart.

d connection is shown below. Nicolas and James, the progenitors of the Dukes of Sutherland, were

OLVERHAMPTON.


= Joyce, dau. of Fulk de Birmingham. A widow in 1480.
John Clayton of Lit. Harewood, co. Lancs., dead in 1537.
Rose, dau. of Ric. and niece and heiress of Ra. de Bushbury of Bushbury.
alter Leveson, W'hampton, oc. 1493, d. 1512.
Eliz. Arden of Parkhall, co. Warwick.
William Leveson, b. 1475-6, oc. 1534.
Helen
Rose
coheiresses of Bushbury.
John Grosvenor, of Tettenhall, J.P., b. 1483-4, oc. 1539.
John Leveson of W'hampton, merchant of the staple, Sheriff Staffs., 1561-2, b. 1498-9, d. 1575.
Margaret m. Ric. Ridley, b. 1503-4.
John Leveson of Lit. Wyrley d. 1578.
Eliz. Fowke.
..... md. Thos. Nevett of Bushbury oc. 1534.
Walter Grosvenor, of Bushbury, d. 1590, md. Joyce, dau. of Roger Fowke of Gunston.
Thos. Leveson of W'hampton, b. 1535, Sheriff Staffs, 1591-2, d. 1594.

Sir John Couper of the prebend, nor any made by Couper to the said James Leveson of the said pasture, but says that in Michaelmas term last past the said James for the cause in the said bill contained sued for a *subpena* against the said Thomas, which writ was served, and the said Thomas appeared accordingly before the King's Council at Whitehall, and it was awarded that the said Thomas be dismissed with his reasonable costs. But the said James not content therewith pursued another writ of *subpena* for the same matter, to vex the said Thomas, without good ground. As to any riot, supposed in the bill, they are not guilty.

Interrogatories on the part of James Leveson, to examine Thomas Leveson.

Whether the said Thomas cut down the gate named in the bill, or any other person by his command, and with what? Whether the said Thomas claimed any title to the pasture where the gate was, and whether he cut down the gate of malice. How many persons were with him at the cutting down of the gate, and who were they?

Thomas Leveson, aged 30 years, sworn, 14th February, 21 Henry VIII. (1530), says that William his servant cut down the gate but he does not remember if he commanded him to cut it down. It was cut down with an axe brought by the said William. He supposes it was done for that heretofore James Leveson and others by his commandment had done this deponent's displeasure in cutting and breaking his hedges. He says he was not present when it was done, but he was not far off, and there were no other persons there. Further he knows not.

MADELEY *v.* FITZHERBERT.[1]

Bundle 26, No. 197.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator John Madley of Qwykhill, co. Stafford, husbandman, [1529] long before this time complained to your grace that John Fitzherbert of Norbury, co. Derby, esquire, with other persons, riotously entered upon his lands and tenements in *Qwykhill* and *Prestwode*, co. Stafford, and took away your orator's goods, whereupon your grace charged the said John Fitzherbert by your letters of privy seal to forbear proceeding any further in that matter, upon pain of £300, and upon that commandment the said John Fitzherbert bound himself in a recognisance of 200 marks not to pursue any action at the common law against the said orator, for

[1] See Vol. 1910, p. 80, where the date is wrongly given as 1518. The earlier suits between these two evidently began in 1518, see Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 75.

the lands, etc., aforesaid. So it is that upon St. John the Baptist's Eve last past, Nicholas Fitzherbert, son and heir of the said John Fitzherbert, John Dawkyns, Thomas Russell, John Nytam and William Mason, and others, riotously entered the said lands, etc., by command of the said John Fitzherbert. Since, your orator has peaceably entered the said messuage, lands, etc., for which entry the said Nicholas Fitzherbert and others by means of his father have brought an assise against your orator in co. Stafford, to the utter loss of his inheritance, which is so impoverished by his long pursuit before your Council for his right in the premises, unless your favour be shown to him. Wherefore please your grace to grant your letters of privy seal to be directed to the same John Fitzherbert and Nicholas his son, and the other persons above named, to appear before you, and to forbear the suit of the assise above-rehearsed.

[*On the back.*] 12th July, 21st year, etc.

Those persons against whom the present petition is exhibited are to be called to appear, etc., on the quindene of St. Michael next, under a pain of £100. And thereupon it is enjoined on them or at least on all known by the name of Fitzherbert, to wit, John and Nicholas, that they surcease from the prosecution of the assize for the lands within specified until the lawsuit pending between them and Madeley in the Council be decided there, and this under a pain of 200 marks, etc. By the Council.

Bundle 26, No. 195.

The answer of John Fitzherbert, esquire.

The said bill is insufficient, etc., and the matter comprised therein determinable by the course of the common law, as appears by the said bill supposing a breach and forfeiture of a recompence, of which the said John Fitzherbert is ignorant. Without that that Nicholas Fitzherbert sued any assise against the said John Madeley.

BROWNE *v.* CUNY, ETC.[1]

Bundle 33, No. 69.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1529] Your orator Thomas Browne, gentleman, of Careswall co. Stafford. Whereas Thomas Gyfford, esquire, is seised of Wetley moor near Careswall, as tenant by the courtesy of England, after the decease of Dorothy his late wife, daughter and one of the heirs of Sir John Montgomery, knight,

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., pp. 149, 183.

deceased, and granted to your orator and other tenants of the town of Careswall, that they should when they pleased cut turves in the said moor for their fuel, as the inhabitants of the said town have used time out of mind. So it is that your beseecher in July, in the 20th year of your reign dug certain turves in the said moor, 6 wainloads, at which time Robert Cuny [Coyney] the younger, by the procurement of Robert Cuny esquire his father, with William Shyngulhurst and Thomas Hall, riotously and with force took and retain the same turves from your suppliant, for which cause they were lawfully indicted. The said Robert the father, and Robert the son, further to molest your beseecher in the same month caused Walter Cuny, Hugh Bagnald of Weston Cuny, Robert Wodde of the same, William Shyngulherst and others to come to the said moor at night, and riotously burn and destroy all turves that your orator and the inhabitants of the said town of Careswall had prepared, to the number of 20 wainloads. Further, 3rd July, in the 21st year of your reign he caused other riotous persons to come to the said moor and burn all the turves of your suppliant and other inhabitants of the said town. Forasmuch as the said Robert the father and Robert the son are gentlemen of great lands, and have many kinsmen in the said county, so that your orator is not able to sue against them, please your grace to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to them, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The several answers of Robert Cuny and Robert Cuny the son, Hugh Baggenall and Robert Wodde.

The said bill of complaint in the most part is untrue, etc. The moor called Wetley Moor contains 1,000 acres, whereof 320 acres, called Weston Moor in the south, in which the said inhabitants have wrongfully cut turves, are and have always been parcel of the Manor of Weston, of which the said Robert Cuny is and at the time of the said digging was seised. The said William Shyngylhurst and Thomas Hall as servants to the said Robert and by his command peaceably at the time of the surmised riot, carried from the said 320 acres to the said Manor of Weston, 2 cartloads of turves dug on parcel of the same, after which time Thomas Broun procured a false bill of riot against them and caused them to be untruly indicted. Forasmuch as the said plaintiff and others had unlawfully cut turves in the said 320 acres so that the pasture in the same was greatly hurt, and Robert Cuny the son perceiving that he nor his father could not carry away the said turves, as was done before, without breaking your peace, caused Walter Cuny his son, then being of the age of 14 years, to go by night to the said Moor to

set fire to the said turves which the said Walter so did. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

The replication of Thomas Broun.

Now says as he has said in his said bill.

WOOD *v.* GIFFORD, ETC.

Bundle 31, No. 73.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1529] Your subject Robert Wode dwelling in the lordship of Weston, co. Stafford. Whereas Robert Cuny esquire is and has for a long time been lawfully seised of a moor in Weston called *Weston Moor*, parcel of Wetley Moor, as parcel of his Manor of Weston, containing 300 acres or thereabouts, in which he granted to the inhabitants of the town of Weston at all times convenient to cut turves, for their reasonable fuel, as they have always used. So it is that John Aspden son of William Aspden, Thomas Browne and Robert Parker of Careswall, co. Stafford, by commandment of Thomas Gyfford esquire, 10th July in the 20th year of your reign with other persons riotously and with force and arms dug and cut a great quantity of turves in the same moor, and carried them away, and of their further cruel mind, the 1st July and divers times in June and July in the 21st year of your reign, they with other riotous persons cut and dug a quantity of turves, with intent only to destroy the same moor, so that your orator and other tenants of Weston should have no fuel in the said 300 acres. Wherefore please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Gyfford, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The several answers of Thomas Gyfford, esquire, Robert Parker and Thomas Broun.

The said bill is insufficient, etc. They know not if Robert Cuny is seised of Weston Moor. The place where the said turves were dug is Watley Moor, parcel of the Manor of Careswall, co. Stafford, of which the said Thomas Gyfford is lawfully seised as tenant by the courtesy of England after the decease of Dorothy his late wife, deceased, one of the daughters and heirs of Sir John Montgomery, knight, deceased. The same Thomas Gyfford licenced the said Robert Parker and Thomas Broun and his other tenants of Careswall to dig turves in the said Whatley Moor, for their fuel, as they have been used to do time out of mind, by force whereof the said Robert Parker and Thomas Broun in

peaceable manner have sundry times entered Watley Moor and dug and carried away turves for their fuel. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

The replication of Robert Woode.

The said bill is sufficient, etc., and not feigned. [*Traverses the entire answer.*]

The rejoinder of Thomas Gyfford, esquire, Robert Parker and Thomas Broun.

By their answer they have sufficiently answered every article in the surmised bill. Further they say as they in their said answer do maintain.

STARTER *v.* KYNNERSLEY, ETC.

Bundle 28, No. 55.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Richard Starter, one of the yeoman of your crown. [1530] Whereas Sir Robert Sheffeld, knight, was seised of a messuage and 60 acres of arable land, 100 acres of pasture, and 30 acres of meadow in *Cramershe* (*Crakemarsh*) in the parish of Uttoxeter, co. Stafford, and in the 12th year of your reign granted the messuage, etc., to your orator for term of certain years, whereof your orator was possessed for 4 years and above, till of late, 6th April, 22nd year of your reign, Thomas Kynnersley of Loxley, co. Stafford, esquire, John Kynnersley, his son, gentleman, Richard Alsop, of the same, yeoman, [John crossed through] Tyxall, of the same, yeoman, John Marten of the same, painter, Richard Clerk of the same, husbandman, Richard Barlow of the same, cook, John Wodward of Bromshelf in the said county, labourer, Thomas Wetton of the same, labourer, John Alsop of Derby, corvyser, John Hake of Loxley, labourer, and William Damport of the same, labourer, with others, with force and arms came to Cramershe and riotously entered a close and pasture, parcel of the premises, and put 60 head of cattle into the said pasture, to destroy the premises, and the same riotous persons, the 24th April then next following entered the said land, and broke down the gate and hedges of the same and put their beasts into the said lands, and then and there made assault on your orator. Please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Kynnersley, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster, on the octaves of St. Martin next to be.

LEGHE *v.* THE ABBOT OF DELEENCRES.

Bundle 21, No. 245.

To the King and his Council.

[1530] Your orator John Legh of Leke, co. Stafford. Whereas your orator was seised of a mese and 6 acres of land in *Leeke*, held of the Abbot and Convent of Deleencres, after the custom of the same town. Thomas Witney, Abbot of the Monastery of Delacrese, Herry Brereton of Leeke, yeoman, Richard Da of the same, yeoman, Geoffrey Atkynson of the same, yeoman, Roger Willoughby late of the same, yeoman, John Berston of the same, labourer, Robert Halewood of the same, labourer, Nicholas Plont of the same, husbandman, and Agnes his wife, 2 August 22 Henry VIII. riotously made assault with force and arms, upon your orator at Leek aforesaid, and broke down his hedges and destroyed his grass growing on the said land. Please your highness to direct four writs of *subpena* to the said persons, commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises :

[*Endorsed.*] Before the lord the King and his Council at Westminster, on the octaves of St. Martin next to be.

WOOD *v.* DELVES, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 303.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1530] Your subject Edward Wood of Kele, co. Stafford. Whereas Thomas Docwra, late Prior of St. John of Jerusalem in England, was seised of the *Manor of Kele* and demised and to farm let the said manor to your said subject from the feast of the Annunciation 11 Henry VIII [1520], to the end of 41 years, paying therefor yearly to the Prior certain sums of money; your subject continued the possession thereof until 4th January, 21 Henry VIII. [1530], Henry Delves of Dodyngton, co. Chester, esquire, without any just cause, riotously and with force and arms entered the said manor and took away and impounded 18 cows and 30 oxen of Thomas Cleydon, farmer of your said subject. Further the said Delves, 15th February last, with others, entered the said manor and pulled down the hedges and ditches of your subject, and 8th May last sent Henry Taylor and other persons who entered the manor about 10 o'clock at night and took and drove away to your town of Dodyngton, co. Chester, 20 kine, a bull, and 11 bullocks of 2 years old of your said orator, and keep and withhold them there so that your subject cannot have any replevy nor writ obeyed

nor sued within your said county palatine by reason that the said Delves is of such alliance and power within your said county palatine. And the said Delves of his further extort, 12th May last, sent Thomas Peke, Oliver Stokdale, Richard Smyth riotously and with arms into a water mill, parcel of the manor of Kele, called Kele Myll, and they entered and assaulted John Huett one of your orator's servants, and left him in jeopardy of his life. Therefore please your highness to grant your writ of *subpoena* to be directed to the said Henry Delves, to appear before your Council in your Star Chamber, to answer the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Let the parties within suited, be called by writ of *subpena* before the King and his Council at Westminster on the octaves of St. Michael next, under a pain of £100.

By command of the Chancellor and other councillors of the King, 2 July.

The answer of Henry Delves.

The bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, forcible entry, and other misdemeanours surmised by the said bill, he is not guilty. As to the rest of the matter contained therein, he saith that in the indenture of lease of the premises made to Edward Wode by the said late Prior a yearly rent of 18*l.* was reserved to the said Prior to be paid at the treasury house of St. John's, Clerkenwell, London, at the feasts of St. Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation by even portions, with a further clause that if the said rent were unpaid, it should be lawful for the Prior and his successors to reenter, and the same indenture should be utterly void. After which lease so made the said Prior died and Sir William Weston, knight, was elected Prior of the said Hospital, and he for non-payment of the aforesaid rent due after the feast of the Annunciation 20 Henry VIII., entered into the premises and was so seised in right of his Hospital, and before 4th January, to wit, 28th June, 21 Henry VIII., granted the said Manor to the said Henry Delves from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel then next following, for the term of certain years, by force whereof the said Henry peaceably entered the premises and was and is lawfully possessed. And forasmuch as the said 18 calves were doing damage to his grass the said 4th January the said Henry took and impounded them within the said Manor as is lawful for him to do. As to the taking of the said oxen and kine, he is not guilty, and as to taking the said 20 kine, one bull and 11 bullocks the aforesaid 8 May last, he saith that the 3rd May last they were doing damage in a certain field of the said Manor and depasturing his herbage, wherefore the said Henry Taylor and Thomas Peke his servants, by his command, took and distrained and impounded

the same at Beteley, co. Stafford, where they remained without any replevy sued by the complainant, until they were driven thence for necessity of their sustenance into a pasture in Donyngton. And after they were delivered to the said Edward Wood. As to the beating of the said John Huyt who occupied the said mill by sufferance of the said Henry Delves, about 12th May last, he sent the said Thomas Peke to him to demand 6*s.* 8*d.* for the half year's rent of the said mill, and commanded him if the said Huet would not pay the said rent that he should discharge him of the occupation thereof which he did, whereupon the said Huett would have made affray upon the said Peke if he had resisted. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Thomas Peke.

The bill is uncertain, etc. [As to the assaulting of John Huett answers as Henry Delves.]

WOOD *v.* PEKE.

Bundle 31, No. 56.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1530] Edward Wood of Kele, co. Stafford, gentleman. Whereas Sir Thomas Docwra, late Prior of St. John of Jerusalem in England, was seised of the *manor of Kele* and to farm let the said manor to your subject for a term of 41 years, paying therefor yearly to the said Prior and his successors certain sums of money, by force whereof your orator thereof was seised from the 11th year of your reign till 27 July in the 22nd year of your reign, that Thomas Peke of Kele aforesaid, yeoman, with other evil disposed persons, by command of Henry Delves of Dodington, co. Chester, esquire, riotously assembled at Kele, and with force and arms entered the said manor and took away a cartload of hay of your orator; and the said Thomas Peke, further, 16th August in the said year, with others with him to the number of 72 persons, by commandment of the said Henry Delves, assembled at Kele, and with force and arms entered the said manor and took away a cartload of corn, of your said subject. It may therefore please your grace to grant several writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Henry Delves and Thomas Peke, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster; on the morrow of St. Martin next to come.

GERARD *v.* MADDOK, ETC.

Bundle 25, No. 206.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Margaret Gerard, widow, late the wife of Pers Gerard [1530] esquire. Whereas she is seised of a parcel of land in *Assheley*, co. Stafford, called Lordys Ley, and cut down underwood there for fuel, and sent 5 carts and one of her servants with the carriers of the same. So it is that Thomas Eggerton, Henry Mynshull, John Mynshull, Hugh Chalton, Richard Hales, John Chalton, Thomas Chalton, Robert Kytson, Thomas Blakelaw, William Betton, John Malkyn, William Maddok, with others, with force and arms riotously, by the command of William Mytton and Cysly his wife, 30th April last, put your suppliant's servants in fear of their lives and "letted" them in the carriage of the said fuel. Wherefore please your highness to grant your writs of privy seal to be directed to the said William Mitton etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsement.*] Hillary Term, 21st year etc.

The answer of William Madok and Hugh Chalton.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. William Harwell, esquire, late lord of Assheley held the said wood called Lordys Ley, and felled the "loppes" thereof and sold them, and one parcel thereof was "heired" sown with corn. After his decease his son and heir John Harwell in like manner sold the said wood, about 8 years past without interruption. The said William Harwell and John Harwell and their ancestors have suffered the tenants of Assheley from Holyrood Day to Whitsunday, to depasture their beasts there, until of late the said Margaret Gerard riotously caused great parcels of wood to be felled and carried away, and broke the hedges of the cornfields. John Malkyn and Henry Minshall two of the tenants of Assheley desired the said riotous persons to leave the hedges, but they refused, and riotously broke them down. Without that that they menaced or vexed them, or that they are guilty of riot, or that the said Margaret was ever seised of the said wood, or any of her ancestors whose heir she is were seised.

ABBOT OF BURTON *v.* WYDDER.

Bundle 25, No. 165.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Whereas your orator, William, Abbot of the Monastery of Our [1530-3]

Blessed Mary and Saint Magdalene of Burton upon Trent,[1] co. Stafford, and all his predecessors, masters of the same monastery held as chief lords, the manor of *Ilome* co. Stafford, and certain lands and tenements in Ilome aforesaid, and have taken the profits thereof, till now of late Ralph Wydder of Ilome, yeoman, Robert Hall of the same, yeoman, John Wydder of the same, yeoman, and William Wydder of the same, yeoman, 6th November last, with force and arms riotously entered a mease in Ylome belonging to your orator, as parcel of the manor aforesaid, and expelled your orator out of the same. Please your grace to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Ralph Wydder, etc., commanding them to appear to answer the premises.

The replication of William, Abbot of Burton, to the answer of Ralph Wydder, John Wydder and Robert Hall.

Time out of mind he and all his predecessors have been seised in right of their monastery of the manors and lands specified in the said bill. And the defendants are guilty of the said riot.

BIDDULPH *v.* ASSHEBY.

Bundle 25, No. 150.

[1531][2] Whereas the heirs of John Salwey,[2] that is to say, Humphrey Conyngesby, within age, son of Cecil, one of the daughters and heirs of John, and William Asshby and Joyce his wife, another of the daughters and heirs of the same John, and Richard Bedulf (of Biddulph) and Margaret his wife the third daughter and heir of the same John, and their friends were at great charges in the law by divers traverses in the court of Chancery, and the King's Bench and the Exchequer, to obtain possession of divers lands, etc., in co. Stafford, held of the Bishop of Chester as of his manor of *Cank*, by copy of court rolls which charges it was agreed should be paid of the first issues of the said lands, and accordingly Richard Bedulf since that time has received the issues aforesaid, and paid as much of the said costs as the same issues would extend to, howbeit a great part of the said costs remain unpaid. So it is that William Assheby of his perverse mind intending to receive the profits of the said lands, to his own profit, and to cause the said Humphrey and Richard and his wife to pay all the residue of the said costs yet unpaid, of their own goods, and to compel the poor tenants of the said lands to pay their rents to the same

[1] Wm. Benson, the sycophantic Abbot of Burton, 1529–33.

[2] See Vol. 1910, pp. 20–2, and see *Inq. p.m.* John Salwey, idiot, 1527 P.R.O.

William, has obtained several writs of *subpena* against divers of the said poor tenants commanding them to appear in Hillary term next to come. Which if they should do so, living by their husbandry, should be to their utter undoing. Wherefore please your lordship that Richard Bedulf may be admitted to answer for himself and the said poor tenants, and to be ordered in the premises according to right and good conscience.

HARECOURT *v.* PRIOR OF RONTON.

Bundle 25, No. 317.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator John Harecourt of Ronton, co. Stafford, esquire, is [1531] seised of a mill in Ronton called *Ronton Mill*, and your said orator and all his ancestors have ever had in the same mill, a watercourse coming from a well in Ronton aforesaid called Whitle Well, to a pole called Sydwall Pole, and from thence to Stonewall meadow and from thence to a pole called Bakehouse Pole, and from thence to a mill called Abbey Mill, and from thence to the said mill of your orator, for the continuance of the same mill; until 18 Henry VIII., Thomas Alton, Prior of the monastery of Our Lady of Ronton aforesaid, with other riotous persons at *Ronton*, without any cause made a "dyct" in the King's highway, whereby the course of the said water was stopped from the said mill of your orator. Shortly after your orator made his complaint to your highness in your court of Chancery, against the said Prior, whereupon your writ of *subpena* was directed to him, commanding him to appear to answer to the premises. And the said Prior perceiving his offence, desired your beseecher to proceed no further in the said suit, promising that the said turning of the water should be shortly reformed, and brought to its old course again, which he performed accordingly. On the day your writ expired the said Prior of his extreme malice, about Easter 23 Henry VIII. (1531), with John Huntback of Ronton aforesaid, labourer, Hugh Wryete of the same, labourer, Richard Hands of the same, labourer, Thomas Huett of the same, labourer, Thomas Hoggeson, Anker Clerk, and Thomas Canterell made a ditch over toward the said highway, against the place called Bachouse Pole and by reason of the same have turned the said stream from your orator's mill, which is like to be his disinheritance, and the destruction of the said mill if it should so continue. In consideration whereof [unfinished.]

The answer of Thomas Alton, Prior of Ronton.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. There is a well called Whitwell evidently known from Ronton aforesaid north-west, not being within a mile and a half of the town of Ronton, which divides the gildable and franchise of Elynall, which has no continual stream, but runs by "accident" rain, the course of which well descends to the Hermitage and thence down Aschebroke by divers ditches to Blacksyche, and so over a green called Heighlay Grene, and from thence to the Smalbroke, and so to a ford called Fulweyford, the which watercourse and the way thereabout the said Prior and his servants repaired, not stopping the king's highway nor turning the said watercourse. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

Writ of dedimus potestatem, *directed to Edward Austen and Walter Wryttellysley, gentlemen, to receive the answer of Thomas, Prior of Ranton, to the bill exhibited against him, dated 7 February, 23 Henry VIII.*

BROKE *v.* DENSTONS, WALKER, ETC.

Bundle 28, No. 15.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

[1531] Your orator Henry Broke[1], gentleman, about 21st September, in the 23rd year of your reign, sent Thomas Pheyse, servant to your orator to *Madeley*, co. Stafford, for certain great causes and business, by reason whereof Thomas Pheysee being there, there came Hugh Rogers of Madeley, yeoman, and Thomas Walker of the same, husbandman, with others, and in the presence of Richard Rogers, gentleman, riotously made assault upon the said Thomas Pheysee. And Robert Destons, constable there, commanded the said Thomas to put up his weapon and he should be saved, by reason whereof he put up his sword. Thereupon the said riotous persons by means of the said Richard Rogers and Robert Destons slew the said Thomas, and immediately afterwards the said Hugh Rogers and Thomas Walker by the procurement of Richard Rogers, Robert Destons and John Snede fled into a wood adjoining, called Netherscydhaye (Scothay), and kept them out of sight.

The said Robert Destons and John Snede intending to safeguard the murderers, promised your orator and his company to watch the house of Richard Rogers and elsewhere within the said town, and to

[1] He had married Agnes, the widow of John Egerton of Wrinehill and Cheddleton. See chart pedigree *ante*, p. 29.

keep the said murderers. Whereupon your orator and his company, trusting to the said promise departed, after which time the said Robert Destons, John Snede and John Bonhed and others went to the wood and succoured the murderers, and suffered them on the morrow following, wilfully to escape, which said murderers after that by their procurement escaped out of the country to Saintwarye (sanctuary) and there remain. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Richard Rogers, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Richard Rogers.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to the riot, etc., in the said bill contained, he is not guilty. The said Thomas Physey, Oliver Turnwike and others made assault on Thomas Walker, the day and place in the said bill submitted, to which fray the said Richard Rogers was not present, privy or of consent. At the same fray both Thomas Pheysye and Thomas Walker were sore hurt, and the same Thomas Pheysye died shortly after. The same Thomas Walker was never seen since that time, in the country, and whether he be dead or alive the same Richard Rogers knows not. After, the said Richard being in Madeley parish church was informed of the said misfortune, and was very sorry thereof, and departed home to his house in peaceable manner. Being there he was informed that the said Henry Broke had assembled 40 riotous persons, who together had made their "avant" to murder the said Richard Rogers, by reason whereof the same Richard in fear of their malice went from his house through the said wood specified, to the parish church of Whitmore, there to hire his evensong on the said Holy Day, being St. Matthew's Day. In the meantime the same Harry Broke and the other riotors came to the house of the said Richard Rogers, and because they could not find him they sought him in the said wood, and after departed. The same Richard after evensong was done reverted home, and there remained.

[*Endorsed.*] Hillary in the 25th year.

The answer of Robert Denstons, and John Snede.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to the riot, etc., in the said bill contained, they are not guilty.

John Snede, aged 40, 30th November in the 23rd year, upon interrogatories ministered to him by Henry Brooke says he was a mile distant from the place where the affray was made. The common report is that Hugh Rogers and Thomas Walker gave the said Pheyse the

stroke whereof he died, but he knows not whether Richard Rogers and Robert Dystons maintained them. On the day that Pheyse was struck he came home at 4 o'clock, about four hours after the affray was done, and came to Thomas Flynt's house where the same Pheysy lay like to die, and found Master Broke there, who said to him, being then constable, "You must go with me to help to take the persons which have slain my servant." In the night of the same day the said Broke sent to this deponent and Destons and they went to the house of Richard Rogers, and there attacked the said Richard Rogers and kept him in his house all the night. And they watched about the same house all night and in the morning they led him to the jail. The said Hugh Rogers nor the said Walker did not escape into the said wood after the murder, and they were not in the house after this deponent and the others came thither. He never intended, nor his fellow Destons, to his knowledge, that the said murderer should escape. They made no search in the town, because it was said the said murderers were in the house of the said Richard Rogers. They did the best they could to have taken them. Brook was with them all the night after their coming to Richard Roger's house. This deponent nor the others went not to the said wood, but to a meadow to seek a horse, nor did speak to nor see any of the said murderers.

He did not know that the said murderers lay in a kiln hole all that night or in any other place of the town of Madeley. He never spoke with or saw any of them after the said murder nor aided them.

Robert Dystons, aged 54, says [*as above*].

Richard Rogers, aged 58 years, examined 7th February in the 25th year, says as is expressed in his answer.

RATCLYF *v.* JOLYE, ETC.

Bundle 32, No. 100.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1531] Your orator William Ratclyf, esquire, deputy to Edward Earl of Derby in the office of Master Forester in the *forest of Maxfeld*, co. Chester. Richard Jolye of Leke, co. Stafford, shereman, Thomas Holme of the same, labourer, William Kyrforth of the same, shoemaker, Philip Crowther, tanner, Christopher Crowther, shoemaker, with John Wegewod the elder of Horton, co. Stafford, husbandman, John Wegewood of the same, husbandman, the younger, William Wegewode of the same, husbandman, Robert Bayly of Brednokholme, co. Stafford, husbandman, George Walden of Dole, co. Derby, husbandman,

assembled together with other riotous persons, and 10th April last, in the 23rd year of your reign, riotously came to "ye Milne Strete" in Leek, and there made assault upon Roger Smyth and Thomas Browne, two keepers of your said forest. In consideration whereof please your highness to direct writs of *subpena* to the said misruled persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster on the morrow of All Souls next to be.

RATCLYFFE *v.* BULLOCK, ETC.

Bundle 32, No. 104.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator William Ratclyf, esquire, deputy to Edward Earl of [1532] Derby in the office of master forester in your *forest of Maxfeld*, co. Chester. John Bullocke of Leeke, co. Stafford, husbandman, Robert Bullocke of the same, husbandman, John Burgh of the same, husbandman, Roger Fowall of the same, husbandman, with others, to the number of 10, with force and arms, 25th December last, in the 23rd year of your reign, came riotously into a chase of forest of the Abbot of Dylacrose, adjoining your forest, and there killed a stag which came out of your forest of Maxfeld, and carried it away. Also about the feast of All Saints before the said day, they killed another stag, a hind and a hind calf at Shyreford in your said forest, and about the fourth week of Lent next following killed another hind calf at the Bow Greve Gate. Also John Wegewood the elder of Horton, co. Stafford, husbandman, etc. [*suit as in Bundle* 32, *No.* 100]. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the same riotous persons commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council, on the morrow of All Souls next to be.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator William Ratclyf, etc. [*as above*]. John Bulloke of Leke, co. Stafford, etc. [*as above*] with others, with force and arms 25th December last, in the 23rd year of your reign, came riotously into your said forest of Maxfeld, and there killed a stag, being one of the red deer of your grace and took away the same. Also John Wegewode the elder of Horton, etc. [*as in suit No.* 100, *Bundle* 32]. In consideration whereof please your highness to direct writs of *subpena* against the said

misruled persons commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Let a writ be made. Thomas More, Chauncellour.

OLCOTE *v.* DRAYCOTT, WARHAM, ETC.

Bundle 27, No. 155.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1531] Your orators Richard Olcote of Awdeley, co. Stafford, yeoman, and Richard Olcote his son. Whereas the said Richard Olcote the father was seised of one mease, one cottage and 38 acres of land in the town of *Talke*, co. Stafford, held of Lord Audeley as of his manor of Audeley, and about 7 years past granted the same to his son, to have and to hold for 3 years then next ensuing, and so from the end of 3 years to the end of other 3 years, paying therefor yearly to the said Richard his father 40*s.* Now, 18th November last Philip Draykott of Draykot co. Stafford, esquire, John Weldon of Southampton, gentleman, Henry Warham of Byldeways, co. Salop, yeoman, with William Warrham, Richard Warham, Thomas Brykkys the elder and Thomas Brykkys of Talke the younger, with others, riotously assembled at Talke, broke the premises of your orator and expelled out of the same messuage, Ellen, wife of Richard Olcote the younger and other their servants, and took them to the castle of Heyley, without cause. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Warrham, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Lord the King and his Council at Westminster, on the octaves of St. Hillary next to be.

The answer of Henry Warham and William Warham.

The said bill is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. The lands comprised in the said bill are not so many acres as is surmised. Richard Warham was seised of the said lands, etc., and held the same of Sir John Tuchett, knight, Lord Audeley and other his ancestors, as of their manor of Audeley and surrendered the same to the use of Henry Warham and Edmund Warham his two younger sons, by reason whereof they were admitted tenants, and occupied the same 20 years, until 6 years past, at which time Richard Olcote the elder, in the absence of the said Henry Warham and Edmund Warham, wrongfully obtained possession of the said lands, etc. The said Edmund Warham at that time died, having issue the said William Warham, and the said defendants made suit to Lord Audeley concerning their said interest in the premises

upon which suit the said Lord Audeley calling to him his learned council, it was thought that the plaintiffs came wrongfully to the possession of the premises. Whereupon Lord Audeley directed Richard Snede, esquire, his councillor, and Philip Draycott, esquire, steward of the manor of Audeley, and his bailiffs and officers, to "avoid" the said Richard Olcote out of the premises and to see that the said Henry Warham and William Warham were admitted to their peaceable possession, and that then the said Richard Olcote the elder, if his title were good, to begin his action against the now defendants. The said now defendants by virtue of the said commandment were lawfully admitted to the possession of the said lands.

The replication of Richard Olcott the father, and Richard Olcott, the son.

A long time before Richard Warham had anything in the premises, John Olcott father of Richard Olcott the elder was seised of the premises which descended to him from Henry Olcot his father. After the decease of John Olcot the same premises descended to the said Richard Olcott the father, as son and heir. After that, the said Henry Warham and Edmund Warham, and one Richard Warham, having no right to the premises, wrongfully entered the same and by unlawful means kept possession thereof from Richard Olcott the elder. The said Richard Olcott for his remedy, at a court held at Audeley, the Saturday after the feast of St. Chad, 15 Henry VIII., commenced a plaint for the premises against Henry, Edmund and Richard Warham, before Richard Snede, then steward of the court. The defendants made their defence and pleaded to an issue therein, whereupon a *venire faciat* was awarded by the steward of the said court to the bailiff of the said manor to return 12 of the customary tenants, to try the issue between the parties. The jurors found the issue for the part of Richard Olcott, and judgment was given for him in the same court, and at another court held after that [he] was admitted tenant to the premises. By virtue thereof he paid his "greshome" for the same and made the said grant to Richard Olcote his son, who peaceably enjoyed the same until the defendants unlawfully expulsed him. [*Traverses their answer.*]

The rejoinder of Henry Warham and William Warham.

They say in all things as they have before said in their answer.

Interrogatories for the part of Richard Olcote the father and Richard Olcote the son, against Henry Warreham and William Warham.

Henry Warham, aged 60 years, sworn and examined upon interrogatories, 29th January 23 [Henry VIII].

1. About 7 years ago the said Richard Olcote the father wrongfully expelled him out of the said lands, and continued in possession of the same until the officers of Lord Audeley quietly put this deponent in possession of the premises.

2. No person came with them when they entered the premises. Divers officers of Lord Audeley were present when they entered.

3. He only had a woodknife and a dagger by his side, and the lord's servants had such weapons as they are wont to carry.

4. He saw no one there shoot arrows, but those within the messuage shot arrows against Lord Audeley's servants. He nor William Warham plucked no one out of the premises, but the lord's officers pulled William Olcote and Edward Olcote and another out of the said messuage.

5. Lord Audeley's officers carried them to the castle.

6. The same officers broke a wall of the messuage.

William Warham, aged 38 years, says [as above].

7th February, 24 [Henry VIII].

Memorandum, that whereas in the matter in variance between Olcott and Warham a commission was awarded to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, and Master Snede in which commission there had been yet nothing done touching the examination thereof. Wherefore it is now ordered that the said commission be newly amended and day given to the above named commissioners unto "tres pasche"[1] next. And it is further ordered that in case the said Mr. Snede does not come to the said Sir Anthony and meet with him at such time and place as shall be assigned, that it shall be lawful for Sir Anthony to proceed alone to the examination, the said commission to them both jointly granted, notwithstanding.

By decree of two of the Council of the King, the day and year above written.

Theys ben the goodes of Richard Olcott whiche ben wrongfully taken and witholden from hym by Henry Warham and William Warham contrary to the decree betwen theym heretofore made in this honorable courtt as partyclerly ensuyth.

Fyrst, 10 lodes of woode price	10*s.*	
Item, a timber tree pric		8*d*
Item, cowpers tymber price	2*s.*	
Item, plowe tymber price		12*d.*
Item, a tobbe stonde price	6*s.*	8*d.*
Item, 4 sawen bordes price	4*s.*	

[1] Three weeks after Easter.

Item, 2 dosen flaxe and hempe price ... ... 12*d.*
Item, 4 cheses price ... ... 16*d.*
Item, 2 bowes price ... ... 2*s.*
Item, 16 arrowes price ... ... 16*d.*
Item, 2 pykforkes price ... ... 8*d.*
Item, 2 trestylles price ... ... 4*d.*
Item, 1 knyfe to hewe berke with, price ... ... 4*d.*
Item, 4 lokkes ... ... 12*d.*
Item, for the rent of 9 acres of londe for every acre 10*d.* which was decreed the said Henry Warham and William Warham shuld content and paye to the lorde of the manor of whom they ben holden, the somme is 7*s.* 6*d.*

Summ totall is 39*s.* 10*d.*

WARHAM *v.* OLCOTE.

Bundle 27, No. 151.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subjects Harry Wereham and William Wereham. Whereas [1532] Richard Olcote of Audeley, co. Stafford, the elder, yeoman, and Richard Olcote the younger, son of the said Richard the elder, lately exhibited a bill of riot against your orator in your Star Chamber, concerning a cottage, 38 acres of land in *Talke*, co. Stafford, to which your subjects said [*as in other suit*]. Whereupon Richard Olcote the elder had judgment to recover the premises against Harry, Edmund, and Richard Warham, etc., the said Harry Warham and William Warham for their new title say that John Olcote father of Richard the elder, at a court held at the said manor the Wednesday before the feast of Pentecost, 13 Edward IV., surrendered the said premises to the use of Richard Warham and his heirs, which Richard then took seisin thereof, and was admitted tenant, and paid to John Olcote for the same £47, the state and title of the said Richard Warham, your subjects now have. And whereas Richard Olcote the elder says that he recovered the premises against your subjects by a plaint in the lord's court. Richard Snede then steward, awarded a *venire facias* to the bailiff of the said manor to return 24 men of the manor at another court day. At which day before Ralph Athekyns, who took upon himself without authority to sit as steward, the bailiff returned the *venire facias*. The jury found for Richard Olcote whereupon your orators were avoided from their lawful possession, which they and their ancestors peaceably had for 20 years.

[*The whole suit, given at great length, is the same as* Bundle 27, No. 155, *with the plaintiffs and defendants reversed.*]

Bundle 23, No. 37.

Writ of dedimus potestatem *directed to Anthony Fitz Herbert, knight, and Richard Snede, esquire, dated 22nd November 24 Henry VIII., to examine witnesses.*

Certificate of Sir Antony Fitz Herbert, knight, and Richard Sneide, esquire, 6th May 25 Henry VIII.

The plaintiffs and Richard Olcote the younger, defendant, were examined before them at Rideware Hampstall, co. Stafford, Friday in Easter Week last, concerning the title of land now in variance. The plaintiff showed them an old copy and a court roll concerning the premises and the defendant said it was only levied in mortgage, and the money offered. Both parties brought witnesses. The said Antony and Richard moved the parties to divers ends to have been had, whereunto the plaintiff was conformable but the defendant refused to stand to abide.

On the part of Henry Warrham.

Richardy Cardy of Wydnsbury, aged 30 years, says that he came to the house as Lord Awdeley's bailiff to give Henry Warrham and William Warrham possession there according to the custom of the manor for a verdict was reversed by error against Richard Olcot. He found there John Smyth, Edward Olcott, William Olcott and their wives and others, and as Mr. Welden and Mr. Draycott commanded them, desired them to come out. They refused therefore he entered and took them forth to the castle of Heley according to custom.

John Smyth shot an arrow at him, and other arrows were shot on the part of Richard Olcott.

William Smyth of Awdeley, aged 56 years, says John Olcot was seised of the said messuage and 38 acres of land and mortgaged them to Richard Warrham. After, as he was informed by his father and uncle, the said John sold it to Richard Warrham. But for the said bargain the premises should have descended to Richard Olcott as son and heir.

He never knew but that Henry Warrham had a good title in the premises, insomuch that after the death of John Olcot, Margere Devele his daughter became tenant to Richard Warrham, and after her death her children took the premises to farm. He never knew Richard Warrham wrongfully to keep Richard Olcott out of possession, and Warrham has been in peaceable possession 40 years and more. Richard

Olcott entered a plaint for the premises against Henry, Edmund and Richard Warrham before Mr. Ric. Snede, then Steward of Awdley manor, and Edmund and Richard would not plead thereto to be at issue, and the said Henry was not there, nor his attorney. Neither Henry, Edmund nor Richard were at the swearing of the jury, and challenged none, nor agreed to any issue. In the absence of Mr. Sneyd, Rauffe Malbone and Rauffe Thikyns deputy stewards, after judgment given, admitted Richard Olcott tenant in the premises and made a copy thereof, and he paid his fine of 38*s.* to Lord Awdley contrary to custom, and not knowing their authority. The said Richard occupied the premises 7 years, but all the time Warrham claimed title therein. By reason of the reversion of judgment Lord Awdley commanded him to go forth of possession but he refused, so he was pulled out by force.

Forasmuch as Henry, Richard, and Edmund Warrham never agreed to the jury, this deponent thinks Richard Olcott never had lawful recovery.

Thomas Unwyn of Awdley, aged 68 years, says as William Smyth has said.

William Boughey of Awdley, aged 54 years, says as William Smyth has said.

Thomas Birkkes of Talke, aged 45 years, says that Edmund Massy and Thomas Boughey bought of John Olcote 3 acres customary parcel of the said 38 acres, and delivered to them estate according to the custom of the manor. For that John Olcott paid 2*s.* for his "fare fee." The decree is performed and he has no stuff nor rent in his custody but delivered all to Olcott accordingly as shall be proved by sureties for the same.

Richard Burne of Chesterton, aged 48 years, says as William Smyth said.

Henry Cowall of Chesterton, aged 48 years, says as William Smyth and Thomas Birkkes have said.

Examinations on the part of Richard Olcott, senior, and Richard Olcott.

1. Robert Smyth of Awdeley, aged 67 years, says he heard that Warrham came to the land by mortgage and no sale, and he saw John White bring into Awdley church at a court day there, about 40 years past, for redemption of the said lands 44 marks which were refused by Hugh Egerton, steward. The premises after the decease of John Olcott should have descended to Richard Olcott as his son and heir. After his decease Henry, Edmund and Richard Warrham entered the premises by the space of 30 years, and kept Richard Olcott from the

same because he made no claim thereto. Richard entered a plaint against them, and Richard appeared in proper person, and Thomas Birkes appeared for Henry, as appears by court roll, and thereupon 12 men were sworn, and passed for Richard Olcott. He saw neither Edmund, Richard nor Henry's attorney, show any evidence, but they pleaded to the action, and they had no evidences to show. Richard Olcott received the premises by verdict of the said jury, and was admitted tenant by Rauffe Thirkyns in Mr. Snede's absence, and had a copy made thereof by Rauffe Malbone deputy for Mr. Snede, and paid 38*s.* to the lord for his fine. The said Richard Olcott lawfully occupied the same for 7 years till he and his son Richard were wrongfully imprisoned by command of John Welden, Mr. Philip Draycott was not there. At the time of the said expulsion there were 15 riotous persons who held weapons, and hewed down the walls of the said messuage, and Richard Warrham had a "jakke" upon him. He has heard Richard Olcott the younger say that his father had not their rent or household stuff delivered to them according to the decree.

John Reve of Awdeley, aged 30 years, says as Robert Smyth has said.

Robert Crokett of Awdeley, aged 50 years, says as Robert Smyth has said.

John Yerdley of Awdley, aged 53 years, says that Richard Warrham of Lawton took a "tubbe stone" away and keeps it from Olcott, and Thomas Birkes keeps the rent from Richard Olcott, contrary to the decree.

Edward Olcott of Awdley, aged 32 years, says he was in the house when Henry, William, and Richard Warrham came and pulled out this deponent, Ellen Olcott and her children, and William Olcott. Thomas Birkes shot arrows and Richard Cardy bailiff of Awdley carried William Olcott to Heley Castle and imprisoned him, and Richard Emery carried this deponent, and Mr. Draycott's servant carried John Smyth and did likewise.

William Woode of Talke, aged 56 years, says as Robert Smyth has said.

Thomas Wilkynson, clerk, of Madeley, aged 60 years, says that John Olcott was seised of the messuage and 38 acres in Talke, and died seised. He saw John Whit, 30 years past offer to Richard Warrham money for the redemption of the lands, and it was refused by his steward Hugh Egerton.

[*Endorsed.*] To the Kyngis most honorabull Counseill be this delyvered.

WYLLATT *v.* ABBOT OF DIEULACRES, ETC.

Bundle 22, No. 71.

To the Kinge our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Peers Wyllatt of Heyton in the parish of Leek, co. Stafford. Whereas the Abbot and Convent of the monastery of our Blessed Mary of Dieulacres, co. Stafford, are seised of the manor of *Heyton* (*Heaton*), co. Stafford, wherein it is customary that the man holding any tenement for term of years, at will or otherwise, and the heirs of his body, shall continue and hold the same, paying such rent as has been accustomed to be paid for the same. And whereas your orator and his ancestors by reason of the said custom have held one tenement called Feirebarous, parcel of the said manor, and William Alban late Abbot of the said monastery received £4 for ratifying the interest of your orator therein from Hugh Wyllatt his father, and your orator after the death of the said Hugh, as his son and heir, entered in the same tenement and has paid to the said Abbot 4 marks yearly and done all other services thereof due. So it is, Thomas Whyteney, now Abbot of Dieulacres, intending the undoing of your orator has commanded your orator to avoid his possession of the said tenement and, because your orator will not depart, Henry Brereton, gentleman, servant to the said Abbot, Rauf Rodyard, gentleman, Thomas Sprag, and others, at the feast of St. Luke last came to the said tenement and made assault upon the wife of your said orator, and took 10 cows and 20 young beasts, and do daily vex your orator in possession of his farm, contrary to your writs of injunction lately directed to the Abbot and Henry Brereton in that behalf. Therefore please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises. [1532-3][1]

SPEVER *v.* TOMKYNSON.

Bundle 31, No. 113.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Thomas Speuer. Whereas George Darwyn, clerk, late vicar of the parish church of *Dyllern, co. Stafford*, November, the 25th year of your reign, granted a moiety or "hlafe dell" of the vicarage and glebeland, tithes, oblations, obventions and other profits to the said vicarage belonging to Christopher Wryht and your orator, for term of 3 years [1534]

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 140, and Vol. 1910, p. 65.

and so from 3 years to 3 years during the life of the said vicar, yielding yearly for the said moiety 7*l.* 10*s.*; by force whereof they were peaceably seised; and after the said Christopher granted such title as he had to your suppliant, and after the said vicar resigned the said vicarage to Sir Thomas Tomkynson upon condition that he should suffer your orator to enjoy the said bargain without any expulsion, whereunto the said Tomkynson agreed, by reason whereof he was admitted. After his induction the said Tomkynson, contrary to his promise came to the said glebe land where he found the cattle of your orator, which he with Robert Warner and other riotous persons, 10th December, in the 26th year of your reign, riotously took and drove to a certain pound in the said county, being a common pound, wherein 14 of the said cattle died, being the most part of the goods that your orator had to find himself his wife and 12 children to live withal. Therefore please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Sir Thomas Tomkynson and Robert Warner, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the King and his Council on the morrow of St. John the Baptist next to be.

WYSTOWE *v.* DORLASTON.

Bundle 23, No. 140.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1534] Your orator John Wistowe of Stottefold, co. Stafford. Whereas John Boiser and Margaret his wife were tenants of 4 acres of arable land in *Hopwas*, co. Stafford, to John Coton of Coton, co. Stafford, the elder after his decease to Richard Coton his son and heir, and after that to John Coton the younger, son and heir of Richard, for 30 years and more. And the said John Boiser made his said wife executrix of his last will and so died, after whose death the said Margaret "enplowed" the said 4 acres with rye, and afterwards married John Warner of Whaiteley, co. Warwick, husbandman, and departed out of co. Stafford into co. Warwick. And the said John Warner and Margaret for 15*s.* 8*d.* sold to your orator the said 4 acres of rye, who was possessed accordingly; till the 27th July, 26 Henry VIII. one John Dorlaston of Wygynton, co. Stafford, the elder, yeoman, John Dorlaston of the Castle of Tamworth, yeoman, butler and servant to Sir Humphrey Ferrers, knight, Roger Flessher of Wygynton, servant to John Dorlaston the elder, labourer, Elizabeth Dorlaston of Wygynton, spinster, Agnes Whytyn of the same, spinster, and others, servants of the said Sir Humphrey Ferrers, with force and arms cut down and carried

away your orator's said rye, and detain it. And whereas at your sessions held at Stafford, the Tuesday after the Epiphany last, it was found that the said John Dorlaston the elder, etc., entered with force, the said 4 acres, forasmuch the said John (*sic !*) Ferrars, knight, is a man of great substance in these parts, your orator is without his remedy by the order of the common law. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Dorlaston, the elder, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

MUNDAY *v.* LORD AUDELEY.

Bundle 30, No. 75.

To the Kynges highnes.

Your orator Sir John Monday, knight, citizen and alderman of [1534] London,[1] was possessed of the Manor of Audeley, co. Stafford, of the clear yearly value of £60, by lawful execution, in due form pursued out of you court of Chancery by reason of a certain statute of the Staple of Westminster, and so seised appointed John Yerdley and John Parker to collect his rents and profits out of the said Manor. The said John Yerdley and John Parker collected the issues and profits of divers of the tenants of the said Manor, and from time to time endeavoured to collect other rents, of the residue of the tenants. So it is, that John Audeley of Bradwall, co. Stafford, gentleman, Thomas Rode of Rode, co. Chester, gentleman, Richard Reynoldeson, late of Audeley, co. Stafford, yeoman, Henry Cowall of Chesterton, co. Stafford, yeoman, Hugh Boghey of Audeley, yeoman, John Knight of Chesterton, husbandman, by procurement of Sir John Audeley, knight, Lord Audeley, with other riotous persons, 9th January in the 25th year of your reign, riotously with force and arms entered into the said Manor and menaced and threatened and prohibited the tenants of your orator that they should not pay him such rents as they ought to do, and imprisoned the said John Yardeley and John Parker, and carried them to the castle of Heyley, two miles from the said Manor, and there kept and yet keep them, without bail, with intent to compel them to deliver such rents as they had received of the said tenants. Further the said persons by procurement of the said Lord Audeley, daily vex and molest the tenants of your orator that they fear to abide within the said Manor. In consideration whereof, please your highness by your writ to injoin

[1] Sir John Monday, Lord Mayor of London in 1522–3, d. 1538, was lord of Markeaton, co. Derby, which he must have held also of the Touchet Audley estates. Nicholls, *Leicester*, v, 525.

the said lord and other riotous persons to set the said John Yerdeley and John Parker at liberty, and to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Lord Audeley and others commanding them to appear to make answer to the premises.

The answer of Thomas Rode, and John Knight.

As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. The residue of the contents of the said bill, are matters determinable at the Common Law, whereto they pray to be remitted.

The answer of Henry Cowall.

[As above answer.]

Interrogatories to be administered to Thomas Rode, John Knyght, ana others on behalf of Sir John Mundye, knight.

Thomas Rode, age 28 years, sworn the 5th May, (1534), in the 26th year, says :—

1. The said Sir John Mundye never had the said Manor of Audeley in execution by means of a Statute. Lord Audeley receives the profits of the said Manor to the King's use. Whether the said Sir John Mundye ought to have it or not, knows not, but he ought not to have it in execution by means of the said statute.

2. He knows not the value of the said Manor.

3. Yardley and Parke received the rents and profits of the said Manor, by Lord Audeley's commandment, and not Sir John Mundye's assignment. He cannot tell what they received.

4. He knows not that any of them were interrupted in gathering the said rent.

5. He demanded the said rents of them, to Lord Audeley's use, and did not threaten them.

6. He thinks Lord Audeley ought to receive the rents of the said Manor, and not Sir John Mundye.

7. He charged the said Yardley and Parke, by command of Lord Audeley and the King's Receiver, to pay no money to Sir John Mundye, otherwise he never threatened the said persons.

8. He met Master Audeley at Audeley one time, and there demanded of Yardley and Parke the rent then due to Lord Audeley. He knows of no assembly there at that time nor of any weapons that any had at that time.

9. Master Audeley and this deponent at that time Lord Audeley's officers, he being his receiver, and Master Audeley to sit to take account of his tenants there, forasmuch as Yardley and Parke would not pay the

rent they had received, by command of Lord Audeley put them in prison in Helye Castle, there being at that time together, Master Audeley and his servant, this deponent and Reynold, Lord Audeley's servant.

10. He cannot depose how long they were there.

11. They were imprisoned by Lord Audeley's command, and were not taken as officers to Sir John Mundye, but as Lord Audeley's officers because they would not pay the rents due to him that they had gathered.

12. The tenants of the said Manor were never troubled by this deponent or any other.

13. The reeves of the said Manor detain the most part of the rents still in their hands.

John Knight of the age of 32 years says that on a day he came to Audeley to deliver a bill of costs to Rode, Lord Audeley's servant, which this deponent had spent in a suit between Lord Audeley and Master Mundye. He delivered the bill at an alehouse called Bolton's house where Master Audeley and Rode were, and as soon as he delivered it he went his way leaving them behind him. For this cause Master Mundy fetched up this deponent by *subpena*. More he knows not.

MUNDY *v.* AWDELEY.

Bundle 3, No. 11.

To the King's highness.

Your orator John Mundy, knight, was possessed of and in the Manor of Awdeley, co. Stafford, by reason of an execution had thereof by virtue of a statute of the staple of the sum of £1,000 which Lord Audeley[1] owed to your subject, and for the payment thereof was bound in the aforesaid statute. Your subject so being seised, your subject has been sundry ways heretofore interrupted of his possession by the said Lord Awdeley himself and by George Awdeleye[2] his son and heir, and other riotous persons. Your subject has divers times complained to your highness before the lords of your Council at Westminster, to which the said Lord Awdeley, George Awdeley and others have been called to make answer, and divers times proofs and witnesses have been brought in and laid before your said lords by both parties, and process made against divers of the said persons for their contempt of non-appearance before

[1] John Touchet, Lord Audley, b. 1483, restored in blood and honours, 1512, d. 1556–7.

[2] George Touchet afterwards Lord Audley. He was son-in-law of Sir Brian Tuke, at this time Treasurer of the Household to Henry VIII, and Clerk of Parliament.

the said lords, upon *subpena* directed to them. Upon due examination of the matter so depending before the said lords, the said Lord Awdeley was enjoined to suffer your beseecher to enjoy the quiet possession of the said Manor, contrary to which injunction the said George Awdeley, by the procurement of the said Lord Awdeley his father, has divers times repaired to the said Manor and with others riotously interrupted your orator's possession in the said Manor, so as your orator could not take and gather the issues of the said Manor. Your orator has complained to your highness of the misdemeanours of the said George and other evilly disposed persons, upon which the said George and others, his adherents, Hillary last, were bound in your Star Chamber at Westminster, in a recognisance of 500 marks, to suffer your orator peaceably to take the rents and profits of the said Manor, without interruption. Since that time the said George, notwithstanding the said orders, 5th June last, with divers evilly disposed persons to the number of 20 persons, whereof some were of London, some of Shropshire, some of Cheshire, some of Staffordshire, commanded all the tenants of the said Manor, within the said church [*sic*] to pay no more rent to your subject, but thenceforth pay their said rents to George Awdeley. Afterwards, 8th June last, they came to the said Manor and charged a great number of the said tenants thenceforth to pay their rents to him, and not to your beseecher, and appointed Thomas Byrkes to be his bailiff, who after by the command of George Awdeley, 18th June, took a distress of Thomas Abbenet for non-payment of his rent to the said George Awdeley, that is to say 6 cows, 4 calves and a bull, and drove the same distress to Heyley Castle, where they remained till the said distress was replevied by the sheriff of the said county. Afterwards, 19th June, Henry Broke,[1] being deputy-reeve to your orator, sent his servants to take a distress of William Lumley, a tenant of the said Manor for non-payment of his rent, after which distress so taken, the said William went to Heyley Castle to complain to the said George, who after came to the house of the said Henry with 4 riotous persons, and threatened him, saying to Robert Egerton servant to Henry Brook that he should not have carried it away if he had met him. Also the said George has caused divers tenants of the said Manor that is to say, John Reve, John Parkar, Robert Smyth, William Bowghey, John Blore, Richard Shaa and the said Thomas Byrkes to pay no rent to your subject nor yet appear at his court, nor do anything that pertains to them to be done. It may therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed

[1] See chart pedigree, p. 29.

to the said George Awdeley, John Reve, etc., commanding them to appear before the lords of your Council in your Star Chamber, to make answer to the premises, etc.

JAS. LEVESON *v.* THOS. & JOHN LEVESON.

Bundle 21, No. 246.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject James Leveson, merchant of the staple of Calais. [1534] Whereas 10th June, 26 Henry VIII. at *Wolverhampton*, co. Stafford, being market day in the same town, Thomas Leveson of the same town, gentleman, John Leveson, brother of Thomas, Richard Forster, and Harry his son, Richard Ridley, Humphrey Sterey, Roger Stery, Harry Toyen, Thomas Rypton, George Bell, Thomas Sytdowen, Robert Braband, William Goslyng, Laurens Russell, Thomas More, John More, Richard Schelden, Thomas Schelden, Richard Waynwryght, John Hancoke and Thomas Nevett with others, with force and arms, the said Richard Forster having a salet of steel on his head and a coat of fence upon his body, and others in harness likewise, assaulted your subject, and the said Richard Forster was ready to murder him. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Leveson and others aforenamed, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Thomas Leveson.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. Further he says the town of Wolverhampton is a market town, within which there has always been a bellman chosen by the whole agreement of the inhabitants whenever that office should become void. Further, that office being void by the death of John Sympson late bellman, a certain person of the town would have given 10 marks to the use of the church of Wolverhampton for to have had that office for his natural life. Notwithstanding, the said James Leveson, of his own high mind as he is wont to do in all suchlike matters, without the assent of the others of the said parish, gave the office to Robert Welbe his brother's servant, to the great discontent of the most part of the parish. The defendant on the day mentioned in the bill of complaint, intending to move the said plaintiff in that matter, came to the said plaintiff's house having in his company Robert Braband, and Wylliam Goslyng and Lawrence Russell, and met William Skevyngton, son-in-law to the said James, and desired to speak with his father-in-law. And while this defendant

tarried to speak with the plaintiff, intending no manner of unquietness, divers persons of the same town gathered about, harking what should be moved concerning the matter, whereupon the said Skevyngton came forth again but the said plaintiff came not forth, and therefore the said Thomas, perceiving that the plaintiff mistrusted to come forth, departed. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of John Lewson and Richard Ridley. As to any assault, riot, etc., they are not guilty.

The replication of James Leveson.

The said bill of complaint is true, and not grounded of malice. Immediately after the said riot, and in the market time, 11th June, perceiving the great fury of the said defendants he went into the market to see that they nor none other should disturb the market, which to the said James appertained forasmuch as he then was and yet is farmer and deputy of the Dean of Windsor who is in right of his deanery lord both of the market and of half the said town, and the said James is owner of one other part of the same town. And the said James then being in the market, Thomas Leveson and other riotous persons came forth of an inn called "the Swan" and riotously, divers of them being in harness, made assault towards the said James. And the constable of the said town, perceiving, charged the said riotous persons to keep peace, and desired them to be bound to keep the peace, but that they utterly refused. And the said Thomas Leveson utterly refused to be bound to the peace for any longer time than till 4 o'clock the Sunday next after. And the next day Walter Wrotesley,[1] esquire, and John Gravener, gentleman, two of your justices of the peace in co. Stafford, having knowledge of the said riot, caused Thomas Leveson and John Leveson to be bound to your highness in a £100 to keep the peace. Which matter cannot be denied and is a great presumption that the answer of the said Thomas cannot be true. Touching the election of the officer called the bellman, the said James says that the said office being void by the death of John Sympson, he being then farmer and deputy to the Dean, by the assent of the said Walter Wrotesley, esquire, steward of the lordship of the said Dean, elected Robert Welbe to be bellman of the said town whereunto the most part of the honest and substantial men of the town assented, the which officer heretofore has been chosen in like manner. Without that that he gave the office to one Robert Webbe. [*Traverses the rest of the answer.*]

[1] Brother-in-law of the two parties, see p. 34*a*.

The rejoinder of Thomas Leveson.

His answer is good and true. He says that the said James, to put this defendant to trouble and costs, the said 11th June, after this defendant departed out of the street in manner as in his answer is alleged, intending to put a bill of riot against him, came into the street with a great company of persons, under colour of keeping the peace, which he needed not to do for anything that was done, in so much as this defendant did not see the said James Leveson the said 11th June, and also Humphrey Sterry and Roger Sterye named in the said bill of complaint were not, the said 11th June, within the county of Stafford, but were 6 miles off in co. Salop. Further he says that the constable at the only request of the said James Luson desired this defendant to be bound to the peace, and also that the said James be bound. Whereupon this defendant was bound, and the said James in his replication has omitted to speak of his own bond. Further he says that the said James caused this defendant to be here, that neither he nor others named in the said bill can be in the country to give evidence in this matter before the justices of the peace.

Writ of dedimus potestatem, *directed to John Verham, esquire, Walter Wrotesley, esquire, and Thomas Moreton, esquire, dated 10th July, 26 Henry VIII., to examine witnesses in the matter.*

Depositions taken at Wolverhampton, 7th, 8th and 9th October, 26 Henry VIII, before Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and Thomas Moreton.

William Salford of Wolverhampton, aged 35 years, sworn, etc., says he holds his lands of James Luson and Thomas Gyfford, esquires, and 10th June, 26th Henry VIII., he saw the defendants, armed, and in riotous manner coming to the house of the plaintiff. And he asked John Howlatt the constable of the said town if he had commanded the said Thomas to keep the peace, and the constable answered that he had commanded him to keep the peace upon a pain of £10, and this deponent said it was too little, and then the constable commanded the said Thomas to keep the peace in pain of £100.

Nicholas Wall of Wolverhampton, husbandman, aged 30 years, says [as above.]

Richard Sheldon, of Tetnall, co. Stafford, carver, aged 32 years, says [as above.]

Thomas Bradeley of Seggeley, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 60 years, says that John Jokes, his neighbour showed him that William Goslyng told him that Monday next before 10th June aforesaid, that if the matter of the bellmanship of Wolverhampton were not taken up

between his master Thomas Luson, and James Luson before 10th June, there would be business, for he said he must be with his master in "harness" the said 10th June, if they were not agreed before. Further he says [as above].

Thomas Jackson of Wolverhampton, chaplain, aged 40 years, says he was drinking at the inn called "The Angel," with certain persons of Penkerych 10th June, and the wife of the house required them to help to keep the peace between Thomas Luson and James Luson, and thereupon this deponent went out, and saw the defendants armed standing at James Luson's door, and this deponent fearing the mischief that might follow went into the said house and exhorted James Luson, to keep his house, and with the help of James' wife, he was kept in the house until Thomas Luson and his company departed. Then the said James went to the cross and caused the market bell to be rung and commanded the constable to see the King's peace kept.

John Howlat of Wolverhampton, draper, one of the constables of the said town, aged 37 years, says that as he was selling cloth in his shop, 10th June, he saw the defendants, armed, and he went to the said Thomas and commanded him in £100 to keep the peace, and the said Luson would not obey him. And he met his fellow the other constable, John Hyggyns, and they saw the said James with a staff in his hand, and others with him, coming towards the market, whom they commanded to keep the peace, and he said he would with all his heart, and commanded all about him, to aid the constable to keep the King's peace. And the said constable required the said Thomas to find surety to keep peace, but that he would not do, but at length his brother undertook for him that if James Luson would find surety for the peace, he would. And the said James put in two sureties without delay, so this deponent returned to the "Swan" and at the request of William Luson his uncle the said Thomas put in two sureties for the peace.

Roger Podmore of Weddisfeld, aged 60 years, says [as William Salford said].

Thomas Fletcher of Watereyton, co. Stafford, yeoman, aged 50 years, says [as John Howlat said].

Richard Wollaston of Pen, co. Stafford, aged 33 years, says [as William Salford said].

John Hardyng of Wolverhampton, tailor, aged 36 years, says [as above].

John Podmore of Wylnall, co. Stafford, gentleman, aged 32 years, says [as above].

Lawrence Wyrrall of Wilnall, husbandman, aged 50 years, says [as

above]. He pays to Thomas Gyfford and James Luson, 12*d.* of chief rent.

John Alen of Weddysfeld, husbandman, aged 50 years, says [as above].

John Hyggyns of Wolverhampton, butcher, one of the constables of the said town, aged 40 years, says [as John Howlat said].

Richard Barre of Wolverhampton, innholder, aged 45 years, says he is tenant to James Luson, also [as William Salford said].

Depositions on the part of Thomas Luson, etc.

William Gesselyng of Seggeley, husbandman, aged 25 years, says he was sometime servant to Thomas Leveson and that on the 10th June mentioned in the bill, he was in Wolverhampton, and hearing his late master was at the "Swan" went thither, and afterwards followed him to James Luson's house where the said Thomas bade Skeffington bid his father James Luson come and speak with him. The said Skeffington came forth again armed, with many following, and he heard the said Thomas Luson say, "I come not to fight nor brawl with him, but to speak with him, but the churl will not come forth."

John Hope of Nechill, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 33 years, says 10th June, he saw the defendants armed before James Luson's door, and afterwards he saw the said James Luson in the market with many persons with him, some with weapons, some without, and further the said Thomas came out of the "Swan" with his followers, to the "Flesshambuls," and then by means of the constable returned again and was content, so that he did likewise to James Luson, etc.

Thomas Hancoke of Compton, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 50 years, says that 10th June, he met one Roger Harryngton and asked him what the matter was, and then he saw and heard Gyle Blike and Thomas Hogett come to the cross and require James Luson to see the peace kept, and he answered that he came for no other intent, and to see the market bell rung according to the old custom.

Thomas Parsehowse, of Seggeley, tailor, aged 40 years, says [as above].

Thomas Hoggetts of Seggeley, husbandman, aged 60 years, says [as above].

Thomas Settadown of Compton, co. Stafford, aged 30 years, says he is tenant to Thomas Luson, and 10th June saw his landlord with divers persons going into the "Swan," and afterwards said James Luson with divers persons, going to the cross in the market place.

Thomas Repton, of Wolverhampton, smith, aged 40 years, says [as above].

Robert Brabyn of Wolverhampton, turner, aged 40 years, says [as above].

Thomas Nevett of Busshebury, co. Stafford, aged 32 years, says he has married the daughter of William Luson, uncle to Thomas Luson, and he was standing at Howlatt's shop, 10th June, when the defendants came from James Luson's house to the "Swan." Further he says [as above].

William Luson, gentleman, aged 58 years, says that by the desire of his nephew Thomas Luson, he went to James Luson's house, 10th June, and required him that some reasonable way might be taken for ordering of the bellmanship, and he said it was done and past. Afterwards he heard that the said Thomas went to James Luson's house, but the said James would not speak with him.

Edward Norton of Wolverhampton, shoemaker, aged 30 years, says he is tenant of Thomas Luson and he was with him, armed, 10th June, when he asked one of the servants of the said James if his brother[1] was in. Further he says [as above].

Thomas Jukes of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, "sharman," aged 40 years, says he is tenant to James Luson. Says further [as above].

Richard Waynewright of Wolverhampton, shoemaker, aged 55 years, says Thomas Luson would have had him to have the bellmanship, before the business began. Also he says [as above]. Further he says Thomas More and John More were not there, also George Bell was not there, nor Richard Lye.

Bundle 21, No. 238.

John Cholmley of Waddisfeld, co. Stafford, smith, aged 42 years, sworn 18 June, 26 Henry VIII. says [as above].

Owen Jurdean of the Hethe beside Wolverhampton, husbandman, aged 39 years, sworn as above, says [as above].

John Gravenour of Tetnall, co. Stafford, esquire, aged 50 years, sworn etc., 30 June, 26 Henry VIII., on the part of James Lewson, says he thinks Thomas Lewson came thither with no good intent, from evidences given before this deponent, being a justice of the peace, within the said shire. He with Walter Wrotesley, esquire, being also another justice of the peace, made enquiry concerning the demeanour of Thomas Lewson and of the other persons. The said James never procured him nor any other, to keep any sessions for the said business,

[1] Brother-in-law, see *ante* p. 34a.

or take any bond of Thomas. Eleven persons were indicted of riot, and about 21 persons gave evidence. To his knowledge the said inditement was not procured by malice.

Interrogatories ministered on the part of James Lewson, whereupon John Gravenour, one of the justices of the peace in co. Stafford, shall be examined.

Interrogatories ministered on behalf of James Leveson for proof of a riot at Wolverhampton of Thomas Lewson and others, at Wolverhampton, 11th June, 26 Henry VIII. (1534).

[Substance given in depositions.]

TYLL, ETC. *v.* WHYTGREVE, ETC.

Bundle 24, No. 187.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subjects John Tyll, Robert Tomkinson, Richard Wolriche, [1534] Thomas Burche, John Tomkynson, and Thomas Halfehede, tenants, freeholders and inhabitants of the town of *Whitgreve*, co. Stafford. Whereas for the maintenance and increase of tillage in the said town, and for pasturage of their cattle, the inhabitants of the said town have inclosed a field called Oldfyld, and two meadows called Brode Medoo and Aldermans Medoo, parcel of the same town. So it is that William Wolascroft, James Parker, Roger Wolriche, and Thomas Dobson with others, by the procurement of Robert Whytgreve, esquire, on the evening of the Nativity of Our Lady, 26 Henry VIII, riotously assembled at Great Bricheford, and with force and arms cut down the hedges which inclosed the said field and meadows, by means whereof the cattle of people dwelling near the town of Whitgreve come into the said inclosure and destroy the grass there to the undoing of the inhabitants of the town of Whitgreve. Further the said Robert Whitgreve has not only wrongfully inclosed 200 acres of land in the town of Bricheford, in which the inhabitants of Whitgreve had common of pasture "by cause of visenage,"[1] but also he daily menaces your said subjects that they dare not inclose the said premises in Whitgreve again, nor cast down the inclosure in Bricheford. Therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said offenders, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[1] Voisinage, neighbourhood.

The answer of Robert Whitgreve.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. He and others were seised to his use of the manor of Bricheford, adjoining the town of Whitgreve, and either of the said lordships have had 3 folds belonging to him in which freeholders and tenants of the said lordships used to "enter comen" with their cattle in their common fields adjoining by cause "de visenage," and the inhabitants of Whytgreve, 40 years now past inclosed 2 of their 3 fields adjoining the fields of the town of Bricheford and thereby excluded the inhabitants of Bricheford, by reason whereof the tenants and freeholders of Bricheford, about 24 years past, inclosed certain parcels of land there. Further the inhabitants of Whitgreve about one year past inclosed 2 parts of the third field called Oldfeld and made a great part of the hedges of the same 3 folds upon the soil of the said Robert Whytgreve, parcel of the lordship of Brycheford. Whereupon the plaintiffs at the sessions held at Stafford were indicted, and thereupon two or three tenants of Bricheford peaceably pulled up the said hedge. Further, he says that the plaintiffs turned the water and brook that meres the common fields of Whytegreve and Brycheford, and thereby drowned a meadow of the said Robert, called Smalle Medowe, to his great loss, of 14 loads of hay yearly. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The replication of John Till, etc., tenants of Whytegreve.

The said Robert Whytegreve is guilty of all alleged in the bill aforesaid. Of late he inclosed the said 200 acres specified in the bill, parcel of the town field of Bricheford, leaving but a small quantity of the town field uninclosed, which will not suffice for feeding the cattle of the tenants of Bricheford, therefore the inhabitants of Whytgreve for their necessary relief inclosed the said parcels of ground, as is alleged in the said bill. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

SALTFORD, ETC., *v.* LUSON.

Bundle 29, No. 191.

To the Kyng owre sofferant Lorde.

[1534] Your subjects, Wylliam Saltford of *Wolverhampton*, co. Stafford, gentleman, Wylliam Austen, gentleman, John Butler, gentleman, Richard Barry, yeoman, Humphrey Tomkes, yeoman, John Howlat, yeoman, Thomas Fletcher, yeoman, William Benet, yeoman, Thomas Colban, yeoman, Nycolas Wall, yeoman, Lewys Rushton, yeoman, John

Sheppard, yeoman, with others, all of Wolverhampton, are daily oppressed by the extort might and power of Thomas Luson (Leveson) of the same town, esquire, as where the said Thomas has often damaged your subjects by unlawful taking of their goods in the name of heriots, not due to the same Thomas, and by encroaching and taking certain lands of part of your said subjects, and transgressing in consuming common and grass of some with his cattle, with many other grevious exactions to them done. So that if they complain to the said Thomas Luson of their wrongs, the said Thomas so threatens them that they are in such dread that they dare not sue to your common laws for their remedy, for the great fear they have of him and his retinue. The same Thomas perseveres in his malicious evil intent to them still, so that without your succour in this behalf the most part of your subjects for fear of their lives shall be fain to seek some other place from their native country to inhabit themselves in for their peaceable life. In consideration whereof, please your highness to command the said Thomas Luson to appear before you, there to put in sufficient sureties for your peace and his good aberyng to be had against your said subjects. For very truth and witness of all the premises your said subjects have severally to this present bill of complaint, put to their seals, 13th October, in the 26th year of your reign.

by me William Saltford.
by me William Astyn.
by me John Butlar.
Nycholas Wall.

[See Bundle 20, No. 254.]

BROKE *v.* SPYTTUL.

Bundle 28, No. 13.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Whereas your subject Raiff Broke, gentleman, 8th December, in this [1534] 26th year of your reign came to a certain pasture in the parish of *Bobyngton*, co. Stafford, belonging to John Broke father of your beseecher, called the Newe Rudding, to see to such cattle as he then had in the same, whereof part belonged to his said father and part to himself, at which time Hugh Spyttull of the Mere, in the said county, husbandman, Sir William Spyttull of Enfeld in the said county, priest, Richard Humphrey Tayler otherwise Wylkockes, John Tailer otherwise Wylcokes,

Thomas Spyttull, John Watkes, William Tyrry, and Thomas Kyrkham, came to him, by the procurement of Hugh, Humphrey Spyttull and John Spyttull, in forcible manner, and riotously assaulted your subject and Michael Broke his brother, and Thomas Bailly then in his company, and sore threatened them, by means of which fear your subjects suffered the said riotous persons to approach nigh to them, and the said persons beat the said Raiffe to the ground and sore wounded him, and Thomas Bailly, by hard means escaped and came to the town called the "Meyre," and raised hue and cry that his master and Michael his brother were in point to be slain at Dasshefen Heys, near the said New Ruddyng. Whereupon Sir Thomas Dasshefen, priest, Nicholas Mollesley, John Dasshefen, and others, minding to keep the peace, came to the said assault. Then the said misdemeaned persons perceiving that company, kept your said subjects in their ward, and feigned that the said Raiff, Michael and Thomas came to break their hedges about a ground called Small Heth, otherwise Clare Heys, wherefore they said they would justify the beating of them, and imprison them till they found surety that they would break no hedges, where of truth your subjects broke no hedges. Although the said Clareheys ought to lie in common to the townships of Lutley and the Meyre, lately enclosed by the said Hugh Spittull and others, contrary to right. Of which assault the said misdemeaned persons have been before the justices of the peace in co. Stafford, indicted. In consideration whereof, please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said persons, commanding them to appear before you, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] On the quindene of Easter.[1]

To our sovereign Lord the King.

We, Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and John Gravenour, gentleman, commissioners assigned by your writ of *dedimus potestatem* directed to us, to hear and examine witnesses concerning the matter in variance in the books hereunto annexed contained, between Rauff Broke and others, plaintiffs, and Hugh Spytull and others, defendants, certify your highness that we by force of your writ, the Monday after the feast of St. John the Baptist last, sat at Tresull, and called before us the said parties, and the plaintiffs brought before us divers persons hereunder named, who then examined, deposed as hereunto annexed, appears :—

Thomas Lea of the Woo, gentleman, aged 28 years. He saw Rauff Broke's head broken. He saw no hedges broken nor moved. He

[1] For the "Answer" to this "Bill" see Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 141.

examined John Watkes one of the parties with Spittull, who said he saw not the said Broke within the said Clareheys.

The said Thomas Bailly made hue and cry at the Meyre and Sir Thomas Dasshefen, John Dasshefen, Lewes Clare and Nicolas Moseley came to the rescue.

Clareheyes is a mile from Enveld. The said Rauff and others say that they were led thither against their wills.

On the night of the affray there was no hedge or ditch broken. He saw them as whole as they were the morning before.

William Byllyngesley of Ludston, aged 49 years, says etc. On the Wednesday before the fray in Hampton, the said Hugh Spittull and Rauff Broke quarrelled. Further, for 40 years past he knew Clareheyes lie common, and never knew it enclosed, till William Bulwardyn enclosed it, and held it sometimes closed and sometimes open, for 3 years or thereabouts.

Thomas Woorwood, of Morff, gentleman, aged 88 years. He has known Clareheyes lie open for 80 years past, until about 16 or 17 years since William Bullwardyn enclosed it.

Stephen Dolman of Seysdon, aged 60 years, says [as above]. John Shenton of the same, aged 54 years, says as the said Stephen has said.

Thomas Barneley of the same, aged 40 years, says as the said Stephen has said.

Humphrey Sebright of Wolverley, co. Worcester, aged 72 years, says [as above].

Henry Wood of Wolverley, aged 74 years, says as the said Humphrey has said.

John Crosway of Morff, co. Stafford, aged 70 years, says his father was 100 years old, and died about 30 years past. He and his father all their lives dwelt half a mile from Clareheys, and he heard his father say that he never knew it enclosed.

Thomas Tomyns of Morff, aged 68 years, says [as above].

Harre Hale of Lynedon, aged 70 years, says [as above].

Thomas Hale and John Gravenour of Morff, aged 48 years or thereabouts, say [as above].

Lewes Clare of the Mere by the said pasture, aged 50 years, says [as Thomas Lea said].

Richard Dasshefen of Enveld, aged 73 years, says [as above]. He has known the said ground for 60 years, and in that time it was never enclosed or were house, appletrees, peartrees, or cherrytrees growing therein till William Bullwardyn enclosed it.

Thomas Clemson of Bobyngton, aged 54 years, says [as above].

John Whorewood of Lyndon, aged 40 years, says as Thomas Clemson has said.

Humfrey Wolverley of Bobington, aged 50 years, says he was in Bobyngton church when the said Hugh Spittull served Rauff Broke with a *subpena*, and the said Rauff said to the said Hugh, that he took him like a thief.

Thomas Toy of Lutley, aged 62 years, says [as above].

Richard Howlatt of Bobyngton, aged 72 years says [as above]. About 60 years past he dwelt with a gentlewoman called Mistress Sowden, and being her servant he oft times fetched her horse in the said common.

William Walker of Burghton, co. Salop, aged 74 years, Thomas Shacull of the same, aged 82 years, Humfrey Richards of Bebberiche of the same county, aged 86 years, John Raynolds of Farnecote, co. Salop, aged 54 years, James Russell of Gatacre, co. Salop, aged 66 years, Thomas Russell of Burton, co. Salop, aged 50 years, Stephen Smythe of Farnecote, aged 54 years, say [as above.] Richard Shenton, of Tresull, aged 58 years, says, John Foxall of Bobyngton, aged 40 years, John Aston of Bobyngton, aged 50 years, say [as above.]

Thomas Dasshefen of Enveld, aged 47 years, says that there were 9 persons at the said affray, and Hugh Spyttull and Sir William Spyttull had bows and arrows, and the others had staves, and that Rauff Broke had his head broken, etc. [as above].

Nicholas Moseley of the Meyre, aged 43 years, says that William Tyrre being at the affray and therefore indicted of riot, said that Rauff Broke had no cause to indict him, for when he, the said William had the said Rauff by one arm, and Humphrey Tayllour had him by the other, if he had not pulled the said Rauff back, Richard Spyttull would have slain him. At the same assault, they did hit by command of Humfrey Spittull. Thomas Bayly made hue and cry at the township of the Mere, by reason whereof this deponent, Sir Thomas Dasshefen, and Sir John Dasshefan came to the house of Beves Clares in the Mere, where the said Rauff and Michael were in custody. John Dasshefen of the Mere, aged 58 years, says [as above].

Thomas Elyottes of Bobyngton, aged 40 years, says [as above].

John Dasshefen of Morff, aged 78 years, says [as above].

Richard Tomyns of Hymley, aged 80 years, says [as above].

Thomas Aparke of Hymley, aged 76 years, says [as above].

Thomas Lyneall of Claveley, co. Salop, aged 80 years, says [as above].

Thomas Hoggetts of the Newend, aged 59 years, and William Sheynton of Aston, aged 40 years, says [as above].

Thomas Smythe of Stowrebrugge, aged 62 years, says [as above].

John Walker of Swyndon, aged 60 years, says as Smythe has said.

Oliver Whoorwood, gentleman, aged 34 years, John Russell of Lyndon, aged 72 years, William Suker of Storeton, aged 68 years, Harre Michall of Swyndon, 60 years old, say [as above]. Also Thomas Rowlow of Enveld, John Tomyns of Enveld, of their own mind paid to the said Sir Thomas, either of them, "a peter peny," Richard Whorwood of Enveld says that Richard Foxoll of Enveld, single man, on the night that the fray was made was sent for to be there, but for what and by whom, he told him not.

WHYCLOKE *v.* BIDULPH.

Bundle 27, No. 97.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your beadmen Nicholas Whyclocke, clerk, and Hugh Walkelate [*c.* 1535[1]] executors of the will of William Wegwoode[2] of *Overton* (*in Biddulph*), co. Stafford. Whereas they were possessed of the goods and chattels of the said testator, so it is that Richard Bydulph of Bydulph[2] in the said county, esquire, Roger Stonehewer, of the same town, yeoman, Robert of the same town [*sic*], yeoman, and Hugh Smalwode of the same town, yeoman, with others, in riotous manner, the 4th September last, assembled at Overton, and with force and arms broke a close of your plaintiffs and took from thence 6 cows of the goods of the said testator and wrongfully detain the same, so that they cannot perform the said testator's will. Further the said Richard Bydulph[3], Roger Stonehewer and Robert Smyth,[3] with Richard Thorley of Bydulph, yeoman, William Wynkull of the same, yeoman, Roger Wynkull of the same, yeoman, John Stonehewer[3] of the same, yeoman, and Richard Gybson[3] of Overton aforesaid, wheelwright, and others, the 2nd November last, at Overton riotously assembled and broke a close of your plaintiffs and took out an ox of the aforesaid testator's goods. And forasmuch as the said Richard Bydulph is a gentleman and has great friends in that country, and your suppliants poor, they may not be able to obtain remedy against the said offenders by course of common law. It may like your highness to send them writs of *subpena* to appear to answer the premises.

[1] See Thorley v. Whelock on p. 120.

[2] Wm. Wedgwood occurs on the Muster Roll of 1539 in Totmonslow Hundred, but Overton lies in Biddulph in Pirehill Hundred, and in the list for Biddulph it is Richard Wedgwood whose name appears in that year.

[3] All these appear on the 1539 list. The others do not.

BOLT *v.* BLUNT, ETC.

Bundle 26, No. 68.

The joint and several answer of Sir George Blunte, knight,[1] *Thomas Buckston, Edward Strongharme, Thomas Hall, John Greene and Edmund Whytrins, defendants, to the bill of complaint of Thomas Bolte, clerk, plaintiff.*

[*c.* 1535?] As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. Sir George Blunte says the bill is replenished with untrue matters, to put him to wrongful vexation. Upon occasion that he understood the plaintiff was and yet is outlawed, and having possession of a certain parsonage, the patronage whereof is of the inheritance of this defendant in his manor of *Over Tene* where he ought of right to have the goods of outlaws, Sir George Blunte appointed the said Thomas Hall and Nicholas Paynne to enter the plaintiff's house which they peaceably did. And because the plaintiff falsely pronounced that they, in keeping possession of the said premises, consumed his cattle, the said Cunnye, one of the defendants, bailiff of the manor, repaired to John More, the Queen's bailiff of the liberty, and requested him to call certain honest persons and take an inventory of the goods in the said parsonage house, which the said bailiff did. No spoil was found of the said goods, but the said plaintiff has named the said officers and others to be defendants, to take away the credit of their depositions, which this defendant prays may be remedied, by order of this court. Concerning the actions pursued by the said defendant against the plaintiff, they are not as in the bill is surmised, but are now depending upon good causes. Without that that the plaintiff is lawfully parson of the said parsonage of *Checkley*, co. Stafford, and if he be, without that that is material against the said defendant, or that the said defendants by the procurement of Sir George Blunte, 22 April last, forcibly and in warlike manner entered the said mansion house of the parsonage, or that they unlawfully entering consumed the plaintiff's goods, to the value of £100, or that the said Sir George Blunte without cause seeks to vex the plaintiff, or anything in the said Bill contained herein not confessed or traversed is true.

The replication of Thomas Bolt, clerk.

The matter in the bill of complaint is true, etc. He is not a man of evil behaviour and so known to be to the justices of assizes and of

[1] Sir Geo. Blount of Kinlet, co. Salop, son of Sir John Blount of Kinlet by Katherine, d. and h. of Sir Hugh Peshall of Hopton and Tene. He was the brother of Eliz. Blount, the mistress of Henry VIII., who bore to him in 1519 Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond.

the peace in co. Stafford, and is true and lawful parson of the said parsonage of Checkley, and, by the procurement of Sir George Blunte, the residue of the defendants entered into the mansion house of the plaintiff, and consumed his goods in such manner as he in his bill of complaint has disclosed. The said parsonage is as well of the inheritance of Sir John Savage, knight, as of Sir George Blunt, and they used to present thereto by turn, the next presentation whereof belongs to Sir John Savage. Without that that the said parsonage is in the manor of Overtene. The plaintiff is seised in right of his church of Checkley, of the manor of Checkley, of which the said mansion house is parcel, and which has always been a manor of itself, without the jurisdiction of the manor of Overtene. [*Traverses the rest of their answer.*]

MOUNFORD *v.* ABBOT OF DIEULACRES.

Bundle 28, No. 107.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Richard Mounford,[1] being aged 8 or 9 years at the [1535] death of Richard his grandfather, was left in possession of two dwelling houses and a ploughland in *Heysynge* (*Esing*) in the parish of Leek, co. Stafford, otherwise called the farm of Heysynge, the inheritance and freehold whereof belonged to Thomas Whytney, Abbot of Delacruse, as in right of his house, and in consideration that the said Richard had not discretion to labour for non-assurance in the said farm, wherein his whole living consisted, William Hulme of Thorneley, Roger Fernehall of the same, and Nicholas Plonte of Leek, kinsmen of the said Richard, in the 18th year of your reign, laboured unto the said Abbot, and desired him for a lease to be made to the said Richard of the farm abovementioned, upon which desire the said Abbot was agreed, and granted to your orator a lease of the said farm for 12 years, the term to begin at the Annunciation, next after the death or marrying of Agnes Mounford his grandmother, who took a husband, in the 19th year of your reign. Further the Abbot promised that the said Richard should give to the said Abbot, 10 marks in the name of a fine whereof the Abbot received 14*s.* 2*d.*, and the abovenamed persons became sureties for the rent and reparations during the said 12 years, intending to take the profits of the said farm to the use of your orator. Whereas

[1] Thos. Mountford of Esing bought New Grange of Sir Ralph Bagnal in 1564. His descendant still retains possession of this estate (Sleigh, *Leek*, p. 208). The family occur in the Moorlands as freeholders as early as 1240.

William Arment of Eysynge aforesaid, uncle to your orator, after such agreement, entered into the said farm, and by procurement of the said Abbot enjoyed the same without right and conscience, and continued the said wrong till the 26th year of your reign, in which year your orator entered into the said farm, and was in possession thereof until William Arment, Richard Rowlynson, of Eysing, Thomas Smyth of Knyveden, John Smyth of the same, Philip Crowder and Christopher Crowder, by the procurement of the said Abbot, with force and arms expelled him, casting out his goods and beating his cattle, and threatening your orator of his life. After they pulled down the house wherein your orator had entered certain household utensils, to the loss of the same, and to the intent your orator by no manner after that time should dwell upon the said farm. Further the said Abbot, being an abettor in all the injuries above rehearsed, caused your orator to be indicted before your justices of the quarter sessions upon the Statute of 8 Henry VI., kept next after the said egress, in co. Stafford, of a forcible entry, by reason whereof your orator is so impoverished that he is not able to sue the process of the Common Law for the redress of them. Wherefore please your highness to direct your writ of privy seal to the said Abbot, etc., commanding them to appear before you to make answer to the premises.

WILKES *v.* JAMES LEWESON.

Bundle 27, No. 180.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1535] Your oratrix Agnes Wilkes, widow, late wife of Richard Wilkes. That whereas the said Richard held a close called Brokemedow, containing 30 acres in *Weddysfelde*, co. Stafford, and by his last will gave the same to the said Agnes for 6 years, after whose death the same Agnes was in possession of the same for 36 weeks; until 25th March in the 27th year of your reign, James Luson, esquire, Thomas Glover, John Pytte, Thomas Wytewyke, John Chomley, Richard Baret and John Aleyn with others, with James Luson as their captain, riotously entered the premises and pulled down the fences of your oratrix and many times since have distrained the cattle of the said Agnes and daily vex her without reasonable cause. And forasmuch as the said Agnes is a poor widow having four small children, she is not able to withstand the malice of the said James Luson. Wherefore please your highness to grant a writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said James Luson, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of James Leweson.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to the said riot and misdemeanour, he is not guilty thereof.

[*Endorsed.*] On the morrow of All Souls.

WALKER *v.* BERYSFORD.

Bundle 23, No. 98.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Whereas your orator Humphrey Walker of Castorne, co. Stafford, [1535] gentleman, for divers years past has held ⅓ part the parsonage of *Alstonffeld*, co. Stafford, and of the tithes corn, hay, wool, etc., thereto belonging except the tithe corn and hay of Warslow in the said county, by grant of Humphrey Berysford, deceased, dated 15th April, 21 Henry VIII., to hold from 3 years to 3 years, to the end of 15 years, at a certain yearly rent, from the feast of St. Martin in winter, 1532, and occupied the same till 21st October, 27 Henry VIII., John Berysford, son and heir of the said Humphrey, deceased, Humphrey Berysford late of Nuton Grange, gentleman, Humphrey Bagnald of Alstonfeld, Thomas Smyth of Alstonfeld, yeoman, and William Crychelaw of Alstonfeld, labourer, with force and arms riotously entered into the tithe barn of the said parsonage at Alstonfeld, and drove out of the said barn Richard Bowlman, servant of your orator. Please your highness to direct your writs of *subpena* against the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

Bundle 23, No. 44.

[*Copy of No.* 98, *with the following note*:—]

Derby. Let it be inquired for the King if Humphrey Beyrreysford of Newton Graunge, in the said county, gentleman, Hugh Beyrreysford of the same, gentleman, John Beyrreysford of the same, gentleman, Christopher Beyrreysford of the same, gentleman, Thomas Nedam of the same, labourer, Thomas Monyfold of the same, labourer, Gilbert Fox of the same, labourer, and John Mellor of Warslowe, "menstrell," co. Stafford, on the feast of the Circumcision, 27 Henry VIII., at Tyssyngton in the county aforesaid, riotously assembled and made assault upon Humphrey Walker, the younger, and other enormous things, etc., to the grave injury of the said Humphrey, and against the King's peace, etc.

WOOD *v.* CLAYTON.

Bundle 31, No. 68.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1535] Your subject Anthony Wood was seised of one mease and one garden in *Newcastle under Lyne*, co. Stafford, by inheritance. So it is that Robert Cleyton of Cleyton Gryffyn in the said county, yeoman, Rondull Harrison of Newcastle, sadler, John Burton of the same, tailor, by the procurement of John Richardson of the same, mercer, 21st October, in this 27th year of your reign, with force and arms, with other riotous persons assembled at Newcastle, and entered the said mease and garden and assaulted Rendall Poynton, tenant at will of your subject, and expulsed him from his tenure thereof, and your subject from his freehold of the same, and broke the walls and buildings of the said mease, and took away the doors and windows of the same, since which the said mease is so dismembered that your subject nor no one else can occupy the same. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Robert Cleyton, Rendall Harrison, etc., commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of Hillary.

The answer of Robert Cleyton.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. Further, Edward Wood was lawfully seised of the said mease and garden, and for a certain sum paid to him by Thomas Cleyton, father of Robert Cleyton, sold the same, amongst other lands, to the said Thomas Cleyton and his heirs for ever. Thereupon the said Edward Woode, by his deed dated 3rd July, 25 Henry VIII., enfeoffed the said Thomas Cleyton, and by the same warranted the said lands, etc., to the same Thomas, by reason whereof the said Thomas was thereof seised by the space of two years and so being seised, the said Edward Woode died (*i.e.*, 1535), and after that Thomas Cleyton died seised of the premises, after whose death they descended to the said Robert Cleyton as son and heir of the said Thomas Cleyton. The said Robert in peaceable manner entered into the said mease etc., and yet is thereof seised. Wherefore the said Robert asks judgment if that he the said Anthony against the said deed of the said Edward Woode his ancestor, whose heir the said Anthony is, shall be received to claim or demand anything in the premises. Without that that the said Robert Cleyton is guilty of any riot etc., or that the plaintiff was at any time lawfully seised of the said mease etc.

WOODE *v.* CLEYTUN, ETC.

Bundle 22, No. 165 (and Bundle 2, No. 52, Ed. VI.).

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Antony Woode, brother and heir of Edward Woode[1] of Keele, co. Stafford. Whereas Robert Woode, father of the said Antony and Edward was seised of a house and 2 crofts called the Park, in Keele, in tail male of the gift of John Woode and Elena his wife, father and mother of Robert, after the custom of the manor of Keele, after whose death the premises descended to your beseecher, brother and heir male of the body of Robert lawfully begotten [*sic*] who was seised of the same for one half year. So it is, Thomas Cleyton, Thomas Peke, Robert Cleytun, John Burtern, Stephen Cleytun and William Hales with others with force and arms, 9th June, this present month, entered the said messuage and expelled your beseecher and carried away divers goods of your beseecher as "a coffer, a jack, a salatt, a borde and a coverde," to the value of 10 marks. Please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to the said persons, commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises. [1535 *or* 36]

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of St. Michael, before the King and his Council.

Bundle 18, No. 210.

The answer of Robert Cleyton to the bill of complaint of Anthony Woode.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. The matter therein is determinable in the court of the lord of the Manor of Keele. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. The said Robert Woode was seised in the said messuage etc., in the manor of Keele, and 5 Henry VII. surrendered into the hands of the lord of that manor the said messuage etc., to the use of Robert Woode and Alice his wife for their life, the remainder after their decease to the heirs of Robert, After the death of the said Robert the said Alice was seised, and so seised died, after whose death the said messuage etc., descended to Edwarde Woode, as son and heir of Robert, who took the same by copy of court roll according to the custom of the said manor. The said Edward, so being seised, for a sum of money paid to him by Thomas Cleyton, father of the defendant, sold to the said Thomas, and his heirs for ever, the said messuage with all goods, chattels, household stuff within the same, and divers other messuages and lands in Keele. And the said Thomas

[1] Died 1535, see previous page.

took the profits thereof by the space of one year and a half. And because Sir Henry Delves, knight, holding the said manor of Kele in farm of the lord of St. John of Jerusalem in England, bore evil will to the said Thomas because he complained to the Lord Chancellor against him, the said Sir Henry Delves would not admit him tenant to the premises, except he were so commanded by the lord of St. John. Afterwards the said Edward Woode died, and the said Thomas Clayton likewise, after whose death the said Robert Cleyton as his son and heir entered into the said messuage. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Thomas Peke to the bill of complaint of Anthony Woode.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. The rest of the matter specified therein is determinable by order of the common law, whereunto he prays to be remitted.

Bundle 18, No. 122.

The replication of Anthony Woode to the answer of Robert Cleyton.

His bill of complaint is certain, etc. And the defendant is guilty of the said riot alleged therein. [*Traverses the rest of the answer.*]

WOLRYCHE *v.* ROBYNSON.

Bundle 31, No. 85.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

[1535] Your subject William Wolryche, gentleman, an infant of the age of 9 years, and son and heir apparent of John Wolryche of Dudmaston, co. Salop, gentleman, deceased. Whereas the said John Wolryche in his lifetime was seised of 2 messuages, 40 acres of land, etc., in *Moche Chatwall*, co. Stafford, and had issue your said suppliant, and so died thereof seised, after whose decease the premises descended to your beseecher. Your said beseecher entered into the premises and was thereof seised according. So it is that your beseecher, being within age, Robert Robynson and Elizabeth his wife, Robert Meadcroft, William Halle, William Mors the elder, William Mors the younger, and others with force and arms, 19th July in the 27th year of your reign riotously entered into the said premises, and not only disseised your subject of the premises, but expulsed Humfrey Goughe tenant and servant of your subject then dwelling upon the said premises, and expulsed the wife and children and household stuff of the said Humfrey, and took and carried away eight loads of corn of the said Humfrey to the value of 5*l.* The

said riotous persons, perceiving your subject to be an infant within age, and not able to attain to the possession of the said premises, not only keep the premises from your subject, but keep the said corn, and the occupation of the premises from the said Goughe. Therefore please your majesty to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Robert Robynson, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] On the morrow of St. Martin.

STOKYS *v.* STOKYS.

Bundle 28, No. 40.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator William Stokys of Bloxwych, co. Stafford, the younger, [1536] cousin and next heir of Agnes Mylle, sometime wife of Roger Mylle, lately deceased. Whereas at a great court held at Walshall, Monday before Palm Sunday last, it was found that the said Agnes was seised of one mease, one croft and divers lands in *Great Bloxwiche*, and so seised took to husband the said Roger, who had issue between them, who after died without issue. The said Agnes afterwards died and the said Roger held him therein as tenant by the law (courtesy) of England, and after died, and your orator was cousin and heir to the said Agnes, that is to say, son of Thomas, son of John, son of Robert, son of Thomas Stoke brother to Henry Stoke father to the said Agnes Mylle, by reason whereof your orator was seised of the said mease, etc. So being seised, of late, John Stokys of Prestwood, co. Stafford, yeoman, Thomas Stokys of the same, husbandman, John Stokys the younger, of the same, labourer, and William Stokys of Bloxwiche, labourer, the last day of February, last, in the 27th year of your reign, with force and arms assembled at Bloxwiche and riotously entered the said mease and lands of your orator, and expelled him, and kept and yet keep the said mease, etc., contrary to the form of the statute of 8 Henry VI. and other statutes in such cause made and provided. So it is your orator upon the said unlawful entry complained to the justices of the peace in co. Stafford, and exhibited a bill of indictment to them for the same at the sessions at Stafford, the Tuesday next after Whit Sunday, which forcible entry was truly found, and your orator prayed of your justices a writ of restitution, which they then granted. And forasmuch as the said mease, etc., are within the foreign of the franchise and liberty of Walsall the sheriff directed his precept by two of his servants to the bailiffs of the said foreign to amove the said force, and commanded his servants to

assist the said bailiff. By reason thereof John Wotherby deputy bailiff of the said foreign, and the said sheriff's two servants came to the said mease and there found the said Thomas Stokys, etc., by command of the said John Stokys forcibly arrayed, keeping possession of the said mease, and the doors thereof barred, and with their weapons they made assault on the said bailiff and the sheriff's bailiffs, and so riotously as yet keep the possession of the premises, intending thereby to disinherit your orator. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Stokys, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of St. Michael.

ARDEN *v.* WARDE.

Bundle 26, No. 60.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[?1536[1]] Your orator Robert Arden, one of the sewers of your . . . . . [where]as he has been troubled by Edmund Warde, an attorney at law, ... in the King's Bench, and Common "Place," and in the Star Chamber, ... besides in your sessions and assizes in co. Stafford, for two acres of land in *Newhay*, in the said county, insomuch as there have been twenty "obligations of arbitrement" between the parties, and the said . . . Edmund about 6 years past bound themselves either to the other to abide the award of Doctor . . . of Lichfield, Master Murton and Master Spratt, arbitrators between them, who made an award. So it is that notwithstanding the said award, the said Edmund daily vexes your orator . . . . . in that he has obtained your orator's attorney from him, whose name is Reginald Carter . . . . . delivered his part of the award, 7 obligations, and 3 bills of payment . . . . . all which money was paid to the said Edmund. Your orator came to London demanding of the said Reignold his said "specialties" which he denied to deliver. Thereupon your orator sued three times to the judges to call the seid Reignold before them, howbeit he would not appear. Edmund and Reignold have . . . to the sheriff of Stafford to levy £40 of the goods of your orator, which they have taken. Wherefore please your grace to be so good as to command . . . . . by your council so that your servant may be restored of his goods.

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 88–94.

Bundle 26, No. 64.

The answer of Edmond Warde to the bill of complaint of Humfrey Coton.

The said bill is untrue, etc., and procured by means of Robert Arden, John Stretehey, steward of his courts, and others, for malice, to impoverish the said Edmund and the said Hugh Coton in the bill named, to recover the said meases, lands, and tenements. The said Robert Ardern, intending to have the said tenements, to dwell in, in the manor of Yoxhall, bought the pretended title to the said meases, etc., of Thomas Coton, and the claim of Christian Coton, mother of Thomas, for 6*s.* 8*d.* by the year if he could obtain the same, or else to lose his costs in suing for the same. Which is "champertie" and against the law. A long time before such suits sued by the said Thomas Coton, owner of the lands sold to Edmond, now defendant, one half of the said lands and received of Edmond £10 6*s.* 8*d.*, by reason whereof, as well as for his retainer, Edmond made defence and answer for the said Hugh in the said pretended suits in the said court. Without that that Edmund bought the title of Hugh otherwise than is aforesaid, or that he offered money to Thomas Coton for his pretended title to the same. Further, the said Ardern caused the same Edmond to be arrested for the murder of Thomas Coton and to be imprisoned until he found sureties to appear before the justices of assize, at the next gaol delivery in co. Stafford, whereas it may be supposed that the same Ardern was guilty, for the title of Thomas Coton to the said lands, which Ardern had bought, was entailed, and the said Thomas Coton had released all his right in the same lands to John Coton father of the said Hugh, with warranty, which is no bar to the said Humphrey, now complainant, whose title Ardern has also bought. So that in the life of the said Thomas Coton, the said Ardern could not obtain the said lands. Without that that Edmund procured the said murder, or by any dilatory way defends any suit commenced by the plaintiff, and that the said Edmund is guilty of any misdemeanours supposed by the plaintiff.

RODE *v.* MASSE, ETC.

Bundle 29, No. 99.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Randall Rode of Rushton, co. Stafford. Whereas [1536] Thomas Rode his father died seised of one messuage, 20 acres of land and 3 acres of meadow in *Waterfall*, co. Stafford, after whose death the

premises. Therefore please your highness to direct writs of *subpena* to said premises descended to your orator as son and heir of the said Thomas, by reason whereof your orator was thereof seised by the space of four years and more, till now of late, 9th May, in the 28th year of your reign, Thomas Masse of Dunwode, co. Stafford, labourer, James Hosenam (Wolsenam) of the same, labourer, Agnes Masse, wife of Thomas Masse of the same, spinster (*sic!*), and Isabel Masse, daughter of the said Thomas Masse, spinster, with other riotous persons, with force and arms assembled at Waterfall and there riotously took their journey to a house and tenements of your orator in Waterfall, and broke the doors and walls, and entered upon the possession of your orator, and made assault on John Grunde, tenant of your orator in the said house. It may please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas and James, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of St. Michael.

WOLRICHE *v.* HARECOURTE.

Bundle 31, No. 71.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1536-53] Your orator James Wolriche. Whereas Sir Symon Harecourte, knight, by his deed dated 3rd May in the 27th year of your reign demised to your suppliant three messuages, 80 acres of land in *Lyttell Bruggeford*, co. Stafford, by the name of all his messuages, lands, etc., in Lyttell Bruggeford, to have and hold to him and his assigns after the death of Richard Walter and Joan his wife, then being tenants of the premises for the term of their lives, for 41 years, paying therefor to Sir Symon and his heirs 40*s.* yearly, shortly after the sealing of the said indenture, the said Richard and Joan died, after whose death, 11th September last, your subject entered into the said premises and was possessed accordingly until Edward Stanley, yeoman, Peter Forster, cook, John Chapman, horsekeeper, William Pakeman, labourer, and Thomas Dawson, labourer, household servants to Sir John Harecourte, knight, son and heir apparent of the said Sir Symon, 2nd December last, with force and arms, by the procurement of the said Sir John, came to the said ground at Brugeford, and riotously entered the said messuages, and set ploughs in the said ground, and since have occupied the said ground, and keep your beseecher out of his lawful possession of the

said Sir John and other riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[HOLME *v.* MALKYN.]

Bundle 24, No. 404.

"These ben the costes, charges, and expences that Richard Malkyn and William Malkyn have be put to by the wilfull vexacon of one William Holme dwelling in Staffordshire, vj^{xx} myle from London." [? 1533-40[1]]

Fyrst, horsemete and mannesmete coming from Whom to London and Whom ayen	xl*s.*
Item, for the recordyng of their apparaunce in the Sterre Chamber	iiij*s.*
Item, for a copy of the bill their	ij*s.*
Item, for the makyng of their answere to the same bill	ij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, for the writyng hit in parchement . . .	xij*d.*

Sum l*s.* iiij*d.*

[The above is crossed through].

JENY *v.* HASULS.

Bundle 23, No. 80.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject John Jeny. Whereas Sir Randulph Brereton, knight, late chamberlain of co. Chester,[2] deceased, held one mease and certain lands in *Ypstons*, co. Stafford, and 28th April, 22 Henry VIII. (1530) granted them to hold from the feast of the Annunciation 21 Henry VIII. for term of 12 years next following yielding a yearly rent therefor, who was possessed thereof until 31st October last, John Hasuls and other riotous persons assembled at the town of Ipstons and with force and arms entered the said premises and expulsed your subject. Please your highness to grant a writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said defendant, commanding him to appear to answer to the premises. [1532-41]

Bundle 23, No. 83.

The answer of John Hasuls to the bill of complaint of John Jeny.

The said bill is of untrue matter, etc., and the most part determinable by the common law. [*Traverses the entire bill.*]

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., 174–5.

[2] Sir R. Brereton, lord of Malpas and Ipstones, died in 1531–2.

[LANE *v.* WHYTMORE.[1]]

Bundle 22, No. 187.

Interrogatories to be ministered on the part of Lane.

[1536?] Robert Whytmore of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, says that Raufe Lane[2] was seised in the said messuage of "*The Signe of the Swanne*," but Nicholas Lewson has always made title to the orchard and garden there. The said messuage descended after the death of Raufe as is contained in the interrogatories, but how long the said Joyce took the profits he cannot tell. He was farmer to the said Joyce, of the "Swan" with the orchard and garden for 2 years until Nicholas Lewson claimed the same, so then he was farmer of the "Swan" without the garden and orchard, 6 or 7 years after. The said Joyce nor none of her ancestors ever made resistance or withstood him in the same. He delivered the evidence named in the interrogatory 3 or 4 years past. Does not remember whether to John Lane or Hugh Hayes his tenant, and he delivered them so that they were of no effect. He came into possession of the evidence as he declared in his answer, and he says the said evidence bore date in Henry VI.'s days, to defraud men of their purchase and leases. He wrote the evidence 10 or 12 years past, then being aged 30 years,[3] and before that time he made divers obligations and indentures for sundry persons, but no deeds, and he had no reward for writing the same. Does not remember the date. Partryche Wyche caused him to engross the same on parchment, and he sealed them in the parlour of the Swan in the presence of this deponent and no more. When he saw they were falsely conceived he published them abroad, also how they were made and sealed. He knew when he wrote the same evidences that Raufe Lane and John Jurden were dead long before, and he did not engross the date or anything else in the evidences except that contained in the draft in paper, which Partriche brought this deponent.

VERNON *v.* BRADELEY.

Bundle 22, No. 135.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1537[4]] Your subject Robert Vernon. Whereas he holds a farm called *Preestwoodes Ferme*, co. Stafford, for term of 24 years of the grant of

[1] With whom are also Jas. and Nic. Leveson; see Vol., 1910, p. 37.

[2] Ralph Lane died in 1477; Joyce was his widow, and John Lane his grandson. This John Lane was in ward to Thomas Partrich till 1536. (W. F. C.)

[3] Rob. Whitmore was born in 1493, see *post* p. 92, hence the date of this suit cannot well be later than 1536.

[4] John Sutton, Lord Dudley, succeeded in 1532, and had sold Dudley Castle and

Sir John Dudley, knight, so it is that John Bradeley of Stower brigge, co. Worcester, yeoman, 23rd February last, with divers persons riotously and with arms entered upon the possession of your subject in the "Gret Medowe" and drove away his cattle depasturing there, and assaulted John Tylor, servant of your subject. Please your highness to grant a writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Bradeley, commanding him to appear before you to answer to the premises.

Bundle 26, No. 49.

The answer of John Bradeley to the bill of complaint of Robert Vernon.

The said bill is insufficient, etc. Edward Sutton, knight, Lord Dudley, now deceased, in his lifetime about fifteen years passed demised a farm called Prestwood, with all its appurtenances in Kynge Swynford, co. Stafford, whereof the meadow now in variance is parcel, to Thomas Shawe, and his heirs for term of 41 years, paying therefor yearly £5 6*s.* 8*d.* Afterwards the said Thomas Shawe for 40*s.* demised the meadow in variance to this defendant for the residue of the said 41 years, paying therefor yearly to the said Thomas Shawe and his heirs 20*s.* by force whereof this defendant was peaceably possessed by the space of 14 years, until 23rd February last John Tyler, servant to the plaintiff, with force and arms made assault against this defendant, in the said meadow, upon which assault the same Tyler is indicted at Worcester. About ten years after the said lease, the said Lord Dudley died[1] and Sir John Dudley, knight, his heir apparent entered into the premises and so being seised sold the said farm to Sir John Dudley, knight, in the said bill named, by whom the plaintiff pretends to have the said lease of the premises, which alienation was a long time after the lease made by the said Lord Dudley to the said Thomas Shawe. Further the plaintiff has divers times usurped upon the possessions of this defendant, and made sundry riotous assaults against him, to drive him from possession of the premises without that that the plaintiff ever held the said meadow in traverse of demise of the said Sir John Dudley, knight, in the said bill named, or that this defendant riotously entered upon the possession of the plaintiff in the said meadow, or that any other things material in the bill, alleged, before in this answer not answered, or traversed, are true.

the estates to Sir John Dudley by 1537. This Sir John was created Viscount Lisle in 1542, Earl of Warwick in 1547, and Duke of Northumberland in 1551. The date of this suit is determined by John Bradeley's answer.

[1] Lord Dudley died in 1532; therefore the lease was made about 1522, and it had run 14 years when these proceedings took place. This fixes the dates *c.* 1537.

GRAVENOR AND MORETON *v.* THOS. LEVESON.[1]

Bundle 21, No. 259.

Interrogatories ministered on the part of John Gravenor and Thomas Morton, against Thomas Leveson, gentleman.

[1537] 1. Whether Thomas Leveson, at the sessions held at *Wolverhampton* about Bartholomew's day, interrupted those that gave evidence.

2. How did the said Sir Thomas Leveson use himself at the inquest.

3. Whether the bailiff or any other officer was sent to command Thomas Leveson to come from the inquest and speak with the justices of the peace.

4. Whether he disobeyed the undersheriff when he came to arrest him by a warrant of good aberyng.

5. What words did he then speak?

6. Whether the undersheriff not being able to do his office, required the assistance of the justices?

7. What words the said Thomas used to the justices and constables when they came to assist the undersheriff?

8. Whether he then drew his knife or struck any man?

9. Whether the justices were hindered from taking the verdict of the inquest, by reason of the misdemeanours of the said Thomas?

10. Whether he appeared at the next sessions, by reason of his bond of good aberyng, and departed without licence, or finding any further surety.

11. How did he behave to the bailiff of Wolverhampton when he came to him to serve a replevyn?

12. Whether the said Thomas and others have been indited for their misdemeanour for disobeying a replevyn or not.

"Concernyng the misdemeanour of Thomas Lewson at a cessions at Wolverhampton."

Roger Penson of Bloxsiche, co. Stafford, husbandman, says about Bartholemewtide twelvemonth, at a sessions kept by Mr. Wrotesley, Mr. Moreton, and Mr. Gravenor, this deponent was one of the jury, and there were divers complaints against Thomas Lewson and John Lewson, that Thomas interrupted those that gave evidence against him, and after the evidence the jury were in the town hall together and the bailiff being the sheriff's officer locked the door and took the key. After the said Thomas came up and opened the door whereupon the whole jury desired him to go his way, and the bailiff could not get him out, so the

[1] See Vol. 1910, p. 66–70.

justices awarded the undersheriff a writ of good abeiryng which the said Thomas would in nowise obey. Then Mr. Wrotesley and Mr. Moreton came into the said hall and desired the said Thomas to come out, which he would not do, whereupon they took his dagger from him, and he was thrust down the stairs. And about night the said Thomas found sureties, but whether he appeared at the next sessions he cannot tell.

As touching the disobeying of a replevyn for taking a silver piece, this deponent says that Thomas Lewson, John Lewson, and one Byng would not suffer the bailiff of the town to make replevyn upon the same piece, but did beat him, therefore they were indited of riot.

Roger Alyn of Pankeriche, says he was bailiff to the sheriff at the time of the said sessions. Further he says [as above].

Henry Flemyng of Alderley says in all things as Roger Penson has deposed.

Thomas Jackson, one of the curates of Wolverhampton says [same deposition as made by him Bundle 21, No. 243].

Richard Barry of Wolverhampton, innholder, as touching the first session and the misdemeanours of Thomas Leveson there, he can depose nothing. As concerning the replevyn he cannot depose, but at that time the undersheriff was lodged at his house, and hearing of the business in the street they came out but all was done before they came, yet he was indicted for the same.

Thomas Lewson, examined 11th June, 29 Henry VIII. says he interrupted no person who gave evidence at the said sessions, that after the inquest was charged he with Richard Forster and William Shepard came to the house, and John Stokes one of the jury came to the door and this deponent told him he came to give them evidence upon such matters done to him by John Gravenor and John Howlat of Hampton. At which time the said Stokes opened the door and so they went in. At what time the justices of the peace hearing that the deponent was with the jury sent to him that he should come away, and within a short time the justices and under-sheriff came all together to the hall, and he was arrested upon a warrant of good aberyng. And the two justices Gravenor and Moreton took away his dagger and in taking it away the same Moreton hurt his hand, and he says he spake no vile words to the justices. Further he says he put in sureties upon the warrant of good abering and so was then discharged, but at the next quarter sessions he appeared at Stafford and was discharged by the Lord Stafford, Justice Fitzherbert and others.

Touching the replevyn he says that James Byng took a piece of silver out of the house of John Fletcher for a distress for certain rent,

upon which there was a replevyn of the same, upon which matter Walter Pereson and Richard Ska(r)sebrige, servants to James Lewson, with weapons came to this deponent in the house of his brother John Lewson and said they had brought the said replevyn for the silver piece. Therewithal James Byng said he took the silver piece for a distress and the said Pereson and Skasebrige fell quarrelling with the said James Byng whereupon this deponent bade them get out of the house. Afterwards this deponent went out to go home, whereupon Scasebrige struck at him and this deponent fell down. And so after John Lewson this deponent's brother came running out having no weapon, but finding a staff, succoured this deponent, and so parted them.

John Bache of Womburn, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 60 years, says [as Roger Penson said]. Further he says he was one of the jury that indicted the said Thomas touching the disobeying of the said replevyn, and there was good evidence so to do.

WHYTMOR *v.* THOS. LEVESON.

Bundle 25, No. 261.

[1537] *The true bill of complaint of Robert Whytmor of divers wrongs done to the said Robert and his friends, by Thomas Luson, gentleman.*

The said Robert Whytmer, aged 43 years,[1] says Thomas Luson came to the *Heath Green*, 31st March, 27 Henry VIII. [1536], and riotously took 2 oxen of the said Robert from the said Heath Green, being the commons of the said Robert, held of the Dean of Wolverhampton, paying him therefor, 1*d.* yearly as chief lord there, and not of Thomas Luson, as appears by these words in French drawn out hereafter, as they are written in the original:—Le Den et le Chapitre de Wolverhampton tient en pure et perpetuall avoire (*sic!*) de la done de Dame Wolverene de le vill de Pelsall, partie de Wyllverhall, Wednesfyld, Hulton, Fethurston, Gosbruk, la Hethe et le Newbrudge avec les boys avec les wastes avec les purtynaunces, etc. Whereupon the said Robert showed (sued) out of the Dean's Court a replevy, and the bailiff came to the said Thomas for the oxen, and bade him search for them. He would not obey it, and the bailiff distrained certain of his cattle and brought them to the lord's fold and so he was forced to bring the 2 oxen again and redeem his cows. But he had kept them 3 weeks "in the barley syndes and they were wurse by a royall then when he wrongfully so fat [fetched] them." By reason thereof I entered an action against him in the court for taking of my cattle. Notwithstanding he would not appear, nor

[1] See *ante* p. 88.

make answer but was amerced. [Other beasts taken from the same place.] The said Thomas Luson claims to have of Robert a chief rent of 2*s.* yearly, out of a "leso" in Gosbruk called the Arbar "leso," where he has none of right, for the same "leso" is held of Federston Prebend, given to the Prebendary as chief lord of Gosbruk, as is before specified. [*In the margin is written* :—the original we saw not], and in the court rolls of the Prebendary of Fedurston is recorded in these words :—

"Of the eyers of Thomas Alen for 2 croftes at Gosbruk with a pasture of Walter Luson's, and certain grownde of the foreseyde Walter's, and a forlong lyyng in Hougley Fylde by exchange by ere, 2*s.*

Yet notwithstanding the said Thomas Luson of his mischievous disposition, at the decease of Thomas Alen, had an ox and 33*s.* 4*d.* for a heriot which he took from Alen's executor extortionately, and the Prebendary had another ox for the same ground. Also the said Thomas had another ox for a heriot at the Heath.

The said Thomas Luson, 23rd March, 27 Henry VIII. came to the lease in Gosbruk and "fat" there 10 sheep of Thomas Fletcher, tenant of this deponent, and drove them out of the country. I recovered them by a *withernam*, yet my tenant lost two sheep and had no recovery. Also 10th December he fetched 3 cows thence and drove them to Bushbery Fold. Then because I pay to Swynnerton the chief rent I desired him to discharge me, and he like a good worshipful gentleman said he would, and he caused the undersheriff to make a replevy, by virtue whereof I recovered the said 3 cows, but in the action he would not answer to it.

Also the said Thomas Luson took a horse of this deponent out of a "leso" at the Heath called the Lyttyl Lowe, on the 12th November, 28 Henry VIII. and impounded it in the fold of the manor of Stoweheth, which horse the said Robert recovered by a *judilate*. And upon that I entered my action against him and called him in the court, but he will not answer, but is amerced. The said Thomas by his servants, 9th August, 29 Henry VIII. came to Gosbruk pasture and carried away a cow and brought him to the pound of the Manor of Stowe Heth. I recovered it against him with a *judilate* and thereupon entered an action against him and have called him in the same court every court day, and he is daily amerced. The which action depends in the same court still because he will make no answer. But I trust "I wyl shortly bryng him in or els the devuell shall fatche hym."

This book is of Robert Whytmor's own handwriting.

JACKSON *v.* RYDLEY, LEVESON, ETC.

Bundle 31, No. 171.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[*c.* 1537] Your poor subject Thomas Jackson, clerk. Whereas one Richard Rydley and Owen Rydley, by the procurement of Thomas Leveson, gentleman and John Leveson with 2 or 3 other persons, 14th December last came to the house of a poor old sick woman called Johan a Bampton in Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, your orator being in the same house, and struck and wounded your orator, and thinking he was slain fled out of the said house. The said Richard was pursued and taken by certain persons of Wolverhampton to the house of Thomas Fleccher, then constable of the same town. After that Thomas Leveson, John Leveson and 5 or 6 other persons riotously came to the house of the said Johan to murder your orator, and when they perceived he was wounded and like to die, they required of the constable to have Richard Ridley, who answered that he could not deliver him without the advice of some justice of the peace. To prove that this act was committed of malice prepense, conceived by the said Thomas Leveson, at the gaol delivery at Stafford about Lammas last, he caused your subject to be untruly indicated of trespass, for laying a "bowenet" in a certain water of the said Thomas, which was proved to be committed by another, and at another time he feigned a bill of riot against your subject whereupon a *subpena* was directed to your subject. Your subject appeared and made answer to the same bill, in which he pleaded not guilty. At another time the said Ridley, brother-in-law to Thomas Leveson, untruly accused your subject of high treason before Doctor Lye who bound the said Ridley and your subject to appear before Lord Cromwell, Lord Privy Seal. Your subject appeared and the said Ridley made default, and upon examination taken, your subject was clearly discharged. Thus the said Thomas Leveson and Richard Rydley confederate together to murder and destroy your subject. Wherefore please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Ridley.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc., and pursued of malice because the defendant informed the King's Council of words spoken by the plaintiff at the time of the late commotion, encouraging the rebels in the North. Further the said plaintiff on the night of the day in the

bill mentioned came to the house of the said Johan, being a common alehouse, and found the said defendant there. In speaking words between them, the plaintiff being in a fury, took this defendant in his arms, who being in great fear, and having upon him a woodknife, for safe guard of his life drew out his knife and struck him on his head. Such hurt was sustained by the assault of the plaintiff. The said Johan a Bampton there being present cried out and thereupon the said defendant departed and in the street met the said constable who commanded him to keep the peace and find sureties for the same, which the defendant obeyed, and because at that time he had no sureties he went with the said constable to his house at Wolverhampton, unto whom at his request came Thomas Leveson and John Leveson to be sureties for this defendant. The said constable refused to take them, whereby the defendant was imprisoned all night. The next day the defendant resorted to John Gravenour one of the justices of the peace in the said county and brought sureties who were bound for his forthcoming and keeping of the peace, and thereupon he was delivered. Without that the defendant or Owen Ridley, or any of them are guilty of riot, etc. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

WILKES *v.* JOHN LUSON (LEVESON).

Bundle 21, No. 78.

To the right honourable Sir Thomas Audeley, knight, Lord Chancellor of England.

Your orator John Wilkes of Wednesfelde, co. Stafford, yeoman. [1537] Whereas your orator was possessed of one messuage, held of the Dean of the King's Free Chapel of Wolverhampton by copy of Court Roll, as of this Manor of *Wolverhampton*, and occupied the same for ¾ of a year when John Luson, merchant of the Staple of Calais, surmised a title thereto, that he had lawfully bought the same of Richard Wylkes, brother of your orator, and detains and keeps the same from your orator, and alleges that a surrender thereof was made about 4 years past, whereof no such surrender was made. Please your lordship to procure King's letters of commission to be directed to the steward of the Court of Wolverhampton and other tenants there, to make a true certificate of all such things done within the precinct of the same court against your orator, and to make true certificate to your lordship what riots, extortions, etc., the said John Luson, Thomas Luson and Richard Rydeley, gentleman, have done against your orator.

Writ of dedimus potestatem *directed to Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and William Sallford, dated* 20 *December*, 29 *Henry VIII., to examine witnesses in the matter.*

WYLKES *v.* THOS. AND JOHN LEVESON.

Bundle 23, No. 195.

To the King our Sovereign Lord, and his most honourable Council.

[1537] Your orator *John Wylkes* of *Wednysfeld*, co. Stafford, yeoman, was seised of two meases, 2 gardens, and 16 acres of land in *Wednesfeld*, parcel of the Manor of Wolverhampton, and held the same of the Dean of your free chapel of Wolverhampton by copy of court roll, and 11th April, 28 Henry VIII., John Leveson, gentleman, sent John Hope to Wednesfeld aforesaid to appoint John Parker and one Lanys wife, with other riotous persons, to come on the morrow to the house of your said subject, to slay him, and accordingly the same John Leveson, Richard Ryddeley, mortal enemies to your orator, John Hope, Robert Harrys, John Parker, arrayed in riotous manner, with others, came and assaulted the same your subject, who fled to the house of John Nicolls, and broke his house and pulled his mother downstairs. And the same afternoon Thomas Levson, esquire, the said John Levson, with Thomas Jewks, James Byng, Richard Waynwrich, Robert Harris and others went to one Myllyngton's house and entered in riotous manner searching for your subject to have slain him, where your subject for fear of his life ran into a great wood; of which riot the said persons are indicted at a sessions of the peace held in the said county. After that the said riotous persons reentered the house of your orator, and expulsed him and his mother, and 20th April, 28 Henry VIII., Thomas Jewkes, Richard Waynwaith, and Robert Harrys, with other confederates of Thomas Levson came by force into your orator's stable, and the next day the said Thomas Levson and John Levson sent five of ther servants to plough the ground of your orator, without title, to his great loss, and sent Alice Lane to keep possession of the house of the said Wylkes, who committed many assaults to your subject, who could not be rid of her until the Constable of the said town came and took her to ward, to keep the peace, of which other riots the said persons might have been indicted but that Richard Rydley, gentleman, who married the sister of Thomas and John Levson, came to Wolverhampton and menaced two of the inquest, saying that if they indicted any more of his friends he would fight with them. And the said persons do daily menace your

orator, so that he can in no place "intend" his labour to get his living, and so is like to be slain except your highness please to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises. [Endorsed.] On the octaves of St. Michael.

The answer of Thomas Leveson, John Leveson, etc.

[As in the previous suits, John Leveson claims to have the interest of the same premises, which Richard Wylkes, late father of the plaintiff assured to Richard Wylkes his son.]

THOS. LEVESON *v.* JAS. LEVESON.

Bundle 1, No. 243.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

Your subject Thomas Lewson of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, [1537] gentleman. Whereas James Byng was seised of a messuage called "*the Cokk*"[1] a barn, garden and 30 acres of land in *Wolverhampton*, and demised the same to your subject for a certain term of years, who was thereof possessed for one year, and after that the said James Byng sold all the said premises to James Lewson by crafty shifts done by the said James Lewson, who had of the said James Byng for the loan of 40 marks for 12 months, about £20 over and above the said 40 marks truly paid. So it is that the said James Lewson caused Richard Ska(r)sbrigge, Walter Person, Sir Thomas Jakson, clerk, and John Andrewes, Richard Barrye, John Fletcher and others, 31 January 28 Henry VIII. (1537) riotously to assemble at Wolverhampton and enter the house of John Lewson, natural brother of your subject, being then in the said house, and with their weapons to assault your subject, to the great danger of his life. And shortly after, the said James Lewson, being one of your justices of the peace in co. Stafford, perceiving your subject would complain at the next sessions, caused a privy sessions to be called and procured to be impanelled Rauff Shafton, William Pyrre, John Bache, Roger Alen of Hylton, Thomas Wylkes, Henry Hemyng, tenants of the Manor of Wolverhampton, and of other lordships which the said James had lately purchased, which manor the said James then leased of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor for a term of years, and also

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., pp. 151–2.

Roger Pensson tenant of William Skevyngton, gentleman, son in law to James Lewson, Roger Aleyn of Penkrige, William Gorwey, William Hawkes, Hugh Decons, Roger Hyll, Thomas Hykkan, Richard Downes and William Cowper, and so by great "imbracerie" caused your orator to be untruly indited of a riot without any evidences. And your orator at the same sessions exhibited a bill of the said riot done by the said James Lewson and plain evidences of the said riot were given, notwithstanding the said jury through the great favour they bear the said James Lewson, would not find the said bill, nor indite the said James. Please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said James Lewson, Richard Skursbryk, etc., and the said jury to appear before you.

The answer of James Leveson.

The said bill is untruely surmised of great malice. He says the said James Byng was seised of part of the premises by copy of court roll at the will of the Dean of Wolverhampton as of his manor of Wolverhampton, and of the residue thereof, by copy of court roll at the will of Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and his cofeoffees, as of their manor of Sto Heth otherwise called the Manor of Wolverhampton, and about 6 years past, for a sum of money paid by the said James Leveson, sold the premises to this defendant, and made surrender thereof to the lords of the said manors, to the use of James Leveson. And so being seised the said James Leveson, by indenture 12th April, 25 Henry VIII. (1534) granted that if James Byng did pay to him before the feast of Christmas next £40 he would make lawful estate by surrender in the said courts to the use of said James Byng and Elizabeth his wife, to Richard Grene and Nicolas Jurden. And if the said Byng or Elizabeth hereafter sell or lease the said premises above 6 years term of that parcel held of the Dean, or above 30 years of that parcel held of the said Walter Wrottesley, then they, at the pleasure of the said James Leveson, shall make estate of the premises in the said courts to the said Leveson so that he pay to the said Byng and Elizabeth £40. And according to the same indenture and after the payment of the £40 to the said Thomas Leveson, the said Byng made a lease to the said complainant of more years than were contained in the said indenture, by reason whereof the said James Leveson by the sufferance of the lords of the said manors entered into the premises and took the profits thereof, as was lawful. Afterwards the said Thomas Leveson and Byng without cause, February last, came into the messuage called "the Cokk," in the tenure of John Fleicher and menaced the said Fleicher and then

departed to his brother's house. Then the said Fleicher informed this defendant of this misdemeanour, who told him to sue for a replevyn and in the meantime he sent Walter Person to Thomas Leveson to desire him not to aloyein ("eloigner") the said distress, and at such time was with Person, Richard Skarsbroke, having no weapon bailiff of the same town, who came with a replevyn to the said Thomas Leveson and Byng. And the said Thomas and his servants struck the said bailiff and the said Person, after which he and the other riotous persons were truly indited of riot, nevertheless the said Thomas would not deliver the distress and the party was fain to sue a "*weathernam*" and by virtue thereof had certain oxen of the said Thomas delivered to him in gauge, and the said Thomas for attaining of his cattle made delivery of the peace, and after by an *accedas ad curiam* removed the plaint before the King's Justices of his Common Bench, at Westminster, where the matter now depends. [Traverses the rest of the bill].

[Endorsed.] The certificate of Sir John Talbott and Sir Anthony Fitzherbert knight, one of the King's Justices of the Bench, into the Court of Star Chamber concerning matters in variance between James Leveson and Thomas Leveson there depending.

Writ of dedimus potestatem, *dated 8th July 29 Henry VIII., directed to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, and John Talbott, knight, to examine witnesses in the matter.*

Letter of Thomas Cromwell to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert and Sir John Talbot, knights.

"In my right harty wise I commend me unto you, and forasmuche as the Kinges highnes hathe directed his commyssion unto you under his great seale, to examyne suche maters as depend and be in variaunce betwixt James Lewson and my servant, Thomas Lewson, although I doubt not but ye will procede therein as equite and Justice shall require, yet I thought it expedient to desire you to take some payns therein the rather for my sake that the truth therein may thoroughly appere accordyng to the trust and expectacion that the Kynges highnes hathe in you. And wher it hathe byn reported by Roger Penson and other that were ympanelled for the Kyng to enquire of a certayne ryot commytted and done in the com. of Staff., that my sayd servant shuld breke open the dore upon them, I pray you to call as well the sayd Penson and other complayants as the residue of thenquest before you and examyne theym of the truthe of that matier and advertise me of that ye shall fynde and knowe in the premysses to the entent that upon your advertisement therof, I may cause suche an order and direction therein

as the care shall rightfull require. Thus fare ye hartely well. At Stebenhithe [Stepney, London] the xith day of July.

Your friend assurydlye

Thomas Crumwell."[1]

[Address on back.]

Interrogatories to be ministered to James Leveson, etc., at the suit of Thomas Leveson, gentleman.

1. Was James Byng seised of "The Cocke," a barn, garden and 30 acres of land in Wolverhampton?

2. Did he mortgage the premises to James Leveson for the sum of 40 marks, and who was present at the payment of the same?

3. Did the said James take the profits of the same, by virtue of the said mortgage?

4. Did the said James receive £40 for discharge of the premises, and who was then present?

5. Did James Byng after the said payment take the profits thereof and let the premises to Thomas Leveson, and for what sum of money?

6. Did Byng after the said lease sell his right to James Leveson, and for what sum of money?

7. Did the said James Leveson command that Richard Skersbryke, Walter Pyerson, etc. to take a distress upon the premises, and why, and did he assent that they should go to the tenement and make assault on the said Thomas, and who were present?

8. What weapons were used, and who bear them?

9. Did the said Skarbrykes come to the house of John Leveson, with intent to pick a quarrel with Thomas Leveson and did he strike him with a staff, and were the other defendants aiding him?

10. Did James Leveson cause a privy sessions to be set and cause the said Thomas to be indited without evidence of riot or trespass.

11. Did Thomas Leveson and others give evidence upon a bill against the defendants, and did the jury not find the same through the favour they bear the said James?

12. Were Ralph Shafton, William Pyrre, etc., part of the said jury, and were they under the distress of the said James, and were any of them in debt or kindred to the said James?

13. By whose procurement did the jury come to the sessions and what advice was given to them, and by whom?

[1] Now at the height of his power; he was made a K.G. in the following month, and did not fall till 1540. No doubt his "servant" Leveson flourished during the same period.

Roger Aleyn of Penkridge says he cannot depose of the title of the same land, and was not present at any affray or serving of replevyn. He was one of the jury summoned by the bailiff of the hundred, and came by no man's procurement. Neither he nor any of the jury were advised by the said James Lewson, or any other, to find the said bill, nor concealed any evidence given. He holds no land of James Lewson, nor is of kin or indebted to him.

Henry Flemyng of Alderley deposes as above.

William Cowper of Wolverhampton deposes as above.

John Bache of Wamborne, co. Stafford, deposes as above.

Roger Penson of Bleckysreyche, as above.

Thomas Jakson, priest, says that about a fortnight before Candlemas, coming from the parish church of Wolverhampton to his host's house, he saw a great company of people, and as he drew near John Lewson came running with a staff, and thereupon this deponent stopped him. And Thomas Lewson was likewise held among a great company of women, but he knows not the cause of the said affray.

Richard Barry of Wolverhampton, deposes as Thomas Jakson deposed.

John Fletcher of Wolverhampton, says that about Michaelmas last Thomas Lewson and others came to his house, being an inn, to drink wine, and when he had finished he took the piece of silver that he drank in, and departed. Thereupon his deponent went to him and demanded the piece again, whereupon the said Thomas drew his dagger at him, and would have struck him but others there prevented him. More he cannot depose.

James Lewson of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, esquire, says as in his answer is contained.

JOHN LEVESON *v.* WILKES, ETC.

Bundle 29, No. 42.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject John Leveson was seised of one messuage, a cottage, [1537]
a garden, and one acre of land in *Wednysfeld*, co. Stafford, by good title, and true conveyance. So it is that John Wilkes, Agnes Wilkes and others assembled at Wednesfeld, 1st March, in the 28th year of your reign and with force and violence entered the premises and kept your said subject and his farmer and tenant from the same. Whereupon your subject at the next sessions of your justices of the peace in the said county, exhibited a bill of indictment of forcible entry against them,

which bill was found true. Thereupon the justices awarded a writ of restitution to your sheriff of the same county, commanding him to put your subject in peacable seisin of the said messuage, etc. By virtue whereof Sir John Dudley, then sheriff, directed his warrant to Robert Moll, constable of Wednysfeld, commanding him to execute the same writ. Whereupon your subject and Robert Moll went to the said messuage to take possession by virtue of your writ, at which time John Wilkes being present, with other ill-disposed persons, shot many arrows at your subject and Robert Moll, and struck and hurt Richard Ridley who came with Robert Moll, to aid him, and so by such violence rescued the said Moll in executing the said writ, to the great loss of your subject. At another time the said John Wilkes rescued with such violence, William Worley, one of the justices of the peace in co. Stafford, so that your justice could not put your subject in peaceable possession of the premises, without peril of murder. And the said John Wilkes and others daily menace and threaten to hurt the tenant and farmer of your subject and their corn and cattle there, so that no man dare inhabit any part of the premises. In consideration whereof may it please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said John Wilkes and others, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*The suit is very lengthy. The matter in the answer, replication, rejoinder, etc., has been given in the previous suits on the same subject.*]

Depositions dated 20th June, in the 29th year.

JOHN LEVESON *v.* WILKS, ETC.

Bundle 21, No. 64.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1537] Your faithful subject John Leveson. Whereas your said subject was seised of one messuage, 20 acres of land in Wednesfeld, co. Stafford, and sowed, and at harvest time cut the corn and grass growing upon the said premises, so it is that John Wilks, John Aleyn, and Thomas Fletcher, the [ ]th August, 29 Henry VIII., assembled and forcibly came to the servants of your subject loading a wain with the said corn, and put them in danger of their lives, and threw down the corn out of the said wain, as the said Wilks at sundry times heretofore hath done to other persons in shooting and hurting them shamefully, and cast the said corn about the fields of Wednesfeld and thereby destroyed it.

Please your highness your most gracious writ of *subpœna* be directed to the said John Wilks, etc., to appear before you to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the quindene of Hillary.

Bundle 21, No. 203.

Interrogatories to be ministered to Agnes Wylkes upon the answer of the bill of complaint of John Leveson.

1. Did you, 1st March last, enter the house of John Leveson in Wednesfeld, and bar the door so that the constable, Robert Moll, could not execute a writ of restitution, but was fain to come in at the window?

2. Did you, at Christmas last, enter the said messuage and how long did you keep it, and what fruits did you take out of the orchard, and what persons helped you?

3. Did you put forth a wain out of the messuage, and cause a swine to be killed, and who helped you?

4. Did not John Wylkes procure you to enter the said messuage, and send you word from London to enter, and how many times have you been indited for forcible entry?

5. How often have you taken corn away from the 16 acres belonging to the said messuage, and how much, and who helped you?

6. Did Richard Wylkes ever pay you any money in name of your dowry during the time he infeoffed you in the said messuage, or did you ever require of the said Lewson your dowry since he was infeoffed, or at such time as it was in mortgage?

7. Did the said Leveson tell you in the presence of Anthony Fyzharbar and Sir Philip Talbot that you had given away your dowry of the premises to Richard, your son, for the promotion of his marriage and did you answer "I have given it to him, I have not given it to you"?

8. Did not John Hope, John Parker and William Walow (Walhouse), Christmas last, in the name of the said Leveson, demand of you what title you had to enter the said messuage, and you answered you entered upon ⅓ part as your dowry, and the rest for John Wylkes your son?

9. Do you know who were present when Olyver delivered to your husband Richard Wylkes the land which was late Pype's? Which were the premises?

10. Who was by when your husband delivered possession to your son, and when he surrendered the 16 acres to him?

Agnes Wilkes, widow of Wednesfeld, co. Stafford, sworn saith:—

To the first, she barred the door at the time aforesaid, but knows of no writ of restitution.

To the second, she did not make entry as aforesaid, but broke the hedge, and that when she would have gone into a chamber of the said house, the said constable with John Lewson and Richard Rydley threw her down stairs.

She denies the 3rd and 4th.

To the fifth, she has only carried away the hay she had made upon the said 16 acres, as by her dowry she might lawfully do.

To the sixth, that Richard Wilkes agreed she should occupy $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the lands and fruits of the said messuage as her dowry, and she never required any dowry of the said John Leveson.

To the seventh, that she said she never gave or sold her dowry to any.

To the eighth, that she said she entered the said messuage for herself and for John Wilkes her son also.

To the 9th and 10th, she cannot depose.

Bundle 21, No. 208.

Writ of *dedimus potestatem*, dated 4 February, 29 Henry VIII., directed to Roger Fooke (Fowke), gentleman, and Francis Stanley, gentleman, to receive depositions on the part of John Leveson.

Interrogatories to be ministered, of the misdemeanours of John Wilkes, at the request of John Leveson.

1. Do you know that the said John Leveson held one messuage and a cottage in Weddisfeld, and 16 acres of arable land, before John Wilkes entered with force into the premises?

2. How long was the said Leveson seised, what rent did he take before he was restored to the possession by a writ of restitution?

3. Do you know if the said Wilkes was ever seised in the premises otherwise than when he entered with force?

4. Did you know the premises were sometime Pype's of Bilston, and if one Olyver was seised after him, and if Richard Wilkes father of the said John bought them of Olyver and how long was Richard Wilkes seised?

5. Do you know if the messuage and cottage are "Chartre lond" or "Copy lond," and are the 16 acres of land copy land or no? Did Richard Wilkes take them by livery, or by surrender in the Dean's court of Wolverhampton?

6. Do you know that Richard Wilkes enfeoffed Richard his son, brother to the said John Wilkes, by livery of that which is charter land and by surrender of 16 acres and how long was he seised in his father's time and after, and whether he took the profits thereof peaceably?

7. Do you know if Richard Wilks enfeoffed the said Leveson or no, and what person was present?

8. Do you know who was present when Richard Wilkes made surrender to Richard his son, and in what manner, and if John Chomeley was present, and what he said?

9. Do you know what deeds John Wilkes keeps from John Leveson, and how he came to them?

10. What rent is due to William Underhill for the charter land and what service to the Dean, and what is the copy land worth, and what rent has the steward assessed for the same?

11. Do you know what money Leveson paid to Richard Wilkes for all the said premises, and how much are they worth by the year?

12. Do you know of any evidences Wilkes has forged concerning the said land?

13. How often did John Wilkes enter the premises by force, how long kept them, how often was he indited for the same, how did he demean himself when the constable brought the writ of restitution, and what force did he use? And what persons were there more than the said Wilkes and Agnes Wilkes? Were any awards of "good haberyng" awarded against him by Sir Anthony Fitzherbert or no?

14. Did he draw his sword at one Hyncon of Weddesfeld after he was bound to the peace, or no?

15. Being in like manner bound, do you know if he shot at one Humphrey James, and who knelt before him to save the man, and what corn and hay he took away with force, and how often he drove away the cattle of the premises?

16. Do you know what unlawful games he used, and if he would have fought with one Thomas Joukes the King's watchman?

17, 18, 19 [*Torn away*].

Depositions taken at Wolverhampton, 26th April, 30 Henry VIII, at the request of John Leveson.

John Hope, aged 37 years, sworn, etc.

Saith John Leveson was seised of the premises ¾ year before John Wylkes entered with force, and the said John Wilkes was indited for the said force, and John Leveson restored by a writ of restitution about one year past and has taken the profits thereof till the time of this deposition. Further, the said lands were sometime Richard Olyver's, and before, Pype's, but not Pype's of Bilston. That Richard Wilkes the elder bought the lands from Olyver and was seised for 12 years and more, that the said mese and cottage is charter land, held of William Under-

hill by certain rent and heriot, and is worth 6*s.* 8*d.* yearly, and that the 16 acres are held of the Dean of Wolverhampton by "copy" and are worth 4*s.* yearly. That Richard Wilkes the father, enfeoffed Richard his son of the mease and cottage by livery of seisin and of the land by surrender in the Dean's court, who was in peaceful possession of the same one year after his father's decease, without interruption of the said John Wilkes. That Richard Wilkes the son enfeoffed John Leveson by one John Hoope in the presence of Thomas Smyth and Richard Waynewright. Further he saith he has not seen so great a fine for so little land, and that John Leveson paid for the sale of the same £12 and more. That John Wilkes, when the constable came with the writ of restitution struck Richard Rydley, and that Robert Molle, constable of Weddesfeld, commanded John Leveson, Thomas Leveson and Robert Harries and others to aid him to seek John Wilkes if the said Rydley had died. That Agnes Wylkes, mother to John Wylkes, was once indited of force for unlawful entry. Also he saith that the said Agnes answered to John Hoope, John Parker and William Wallouse that she entered ⅓ part of the said land for herself, and the other part for the right of her son, and also he saith that John Wylkes was never seised of the premises but by means of the force aforesaid.

Robert Molle, aged 62 years, says as John Hoope said before. Further that being constable he had a warrant of "good aberying" directed to him from Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, against the said John Wylkes, which he would not obey.

Richard Rydley, aged 33 years, says as Robert Molle says.

Richard Foxhall, aged 50 years, says as John Hope said.

Thomas Jokes, aged 40 years, says as Richard Foxall says.

James Byng, aged 32 years, says as John Hope said.

Roger Prestwode, aged 40 years, says that Agnes Wylkes, mother of the said John Wylkes, about St. Lambert's Day entered the orchard, parcel of the premises, and took with force, 4 strike of apples.

John Hynton, aged 50 years, says that John Wylkes rebuked him for coming with the constable to see the peace kept between the said John Wylkes and John Leveson, and drew his sword at him.

John Parker, aged 34 years, says as Richard Foxall said.

John Cholmeley, aged 67 years, says that about 7 years last past he was present in court at the desire of Richard Wylkes the younger, when Richard Wylkes his father said that Richard his son should have all such lands as he bought of Richard Olyver, that late were Thomas Pype's. And after the said Richard the younger desired the said Cholmeley to go with him to the steward for his copy, and so he did.

John Alyn, aged 56 years, says that Richard Wilkes the younger made a letter of attorney to him and one Richard Waynewright to surrender in the lord's hands all such lands as he held by copy, to the use of John Leveson and his heirs for ever, and that the Dean has out of the said land 3*d.* yearly and contribution when it happens to fall, and William Underhill has out of the "mese place" 10*d.* yearly, and heriot when it falls.

WILKS *v.* JOHN LEVESON.

Bundle 21, No. 260.

Be it known that John Vernon esquire, one of the King's Council, [1538] certified us the commissioners above in the schedule to this bill annexed named, by his letter annexed to this bill to the said Walter Wrottesley esquire directed, subscribed with the hand of the said John Vernon, that he was never privy to the making of any writ of restitution between John Leveson and John Wylkes, nor made no such writ, as is supposed and promoted by the said John Leveson, by reason of which writ of restitution the same John Leveson entered into the said messuage and other lands now in variance between the said parties, as plainly appears by the said bill, whereof we the said commissioners have put our hand to the certificate.

Waltur Wrottyssley.
Wylliam Saltford.

Above-mentioned letter of John Vernon, dated 24th January, 29 Henry VIII (1538).

Be it known that 2nd January, 29 Henry VIII, I, Robert Molle, late constable of Weddesfelde, testified before Sir John Gifford, knight, Edward Baker, priest, John Molle of Busburye, Roger Brasyare of the same town, Thomas Tucker of Bilston, John Foxall of Wolverhampton, and Edmund Cowley of the same town, that I returned a "rescow" against John Wilkes of Weddesfeld, by the procurement of John Lewson of Wolverhampton, and his counsel learned, and not by my own mind, nor would not have done it if the said John Lewson and his counsel had not said that I the said Robarte must needs do it. Also the said Robert testified that the said John Lewson, Richard Rydlye, Robert Harreys, John Parker, Nycolas Wod, John Nycols and Nycolas Wall were in the house for which the said John Lewson and John Wilkes do strive, and when the said John Wilkes came thither and the said Robert Moll, John Lewson, Richard Rydlye and Robert Harres came out of the said house and ran after the said John Wilkes, and in the

said running after the said John Wilkes, the said Richard Rydley was hurt. In witness whereof, I, Sir John Gifforte, knight, and Edward Baker, priest, with other above-named, have put our hands.

John Gyfford.
Edward Baker, priest.

Depositions taken at Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, 17th January, 29 Henry VIII, before Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and William Salford by virtue of the King's writ of dedimus potestatem *directed to them.*

Sir Edward Baker, priest, aged 50 years, Thomas Tomkes, aged 51 years, Roger Brasyar, aged 30 years, Edmund Cowley, aged 48 years, say that Robert Molle, late constable of Wednesfeld, has testified before them and others that he returned a "rescowe" against John Wylkes, plaintiff, by the procurement of John Leveson and his counsel, etc., as appears by a bill hereunto annexed.

Nicholas Wall, aged 30 years, says as is aforesaid. Further that the lands now in variance are copyhold, held of the Dean of Windsor of his manor of Wolverhampton, and that John Wylkes is right heir thereto.

John Nycols, aged 40 years, says as Nicholas Wall has aforesaid.

William Rolston, aged 58 years, says [as Nicholas Wall has aforesaid].

William Bekett, aged 40 years, says [as is aforesaid].

John Aleyn, aged 55 years, and Nicholas Jordans, aged 54 years, say [as is aforesaid].

John Wylkes, aged 32 years, says that Richard Wylkes his father died seised of the said messuage and lands, which are copyhold, held of the Dean of Windsor of his manor of Wolverhampton, and that he is right heir to the same. Further, 12th April last, the said John Leveson, Richard Rydley, Robert Harres and others riotously came to his said house and took out Agnes Wilkes his mother, whereupon this deponent called a privy sessions and indicted them of the said riot, also that Roger Prestwode, Robert Harres, John Jowke, Richard Broke, Edward Olyver, Humphrey James, Philip Wells, Margaret Sheppard, Agnes Moot, Margery Elwall and others, riotously, 18th August last, came to Wednesfeld to take away this deponent's corn, which was an acre of barley, and this deponent told them they should have none. And this deponent sent to Sir Walter Wrottesley and James Leveson, esquires, two of the justices of the peace for co. Stafford, who sent charging them to let the said corn rest till it was tried who ought to have it. The same night the said Thomas Leveson sent the same

persons riotously, and they took away the said corn, and further they put him and his wife in fear of their lives.

Robert Harres, servant with John Leveson, defendant, aged 25 years, says he thinks Master John Vernon, esquire, made a writ of restitution to restore John Leveson to the lands now in variance between John Wylkes and John Leveson. Further he cannot say.

Robert Molle, aged 59 years, says the messuage now in variance is charter land, and the land is copyhold, held of the Dean of Windsor. Further he heard the tenants say on New Year's Eve last, that Richard Wilkes, father of the plaintiff, came into the court of the Dean of Wolverhampton, and surrendered all the land he bought of Richard Olyver, which more late was Thomas Pype's, to the use of Richard Wylkes, his younger son, who sold the premises to the said defendant.

Thomas Jukes, aged 46 years, "sherman," cannot answer to the premises.

Thomas Leveson, esquire, aged 40 years, says the said messuage is charter land held of William Underhill by rent and services, and the land is copyhold.

Further he says [as Robert Molle said].

John Hope, aged 36 years, says [as above].

Richard Lane, aged 40 years, cannot say.

Edward Olyver, aged 21 years, says Richard Wylkes the elder purchased the messuage and lands of Richard Olyver and not of Thomas Pype. Further he cannot say.

Richard Rydley, aged 34 years, says as John Hope before has said. Further that William Underhyll is lord of the said messuage, and has 2 heriots of the same after the decease of the tenants.

John Leveson, aged 40 years, says as Thomas Leveson before has said. Further that Richard Wylkes the younger, was seised of the premises 1½ years before the death of his father Richard Wylkes the elder, and 1½ years afterwards, and then sold the premises to this deponent, who held the same and took the rent three half years, and that John Wylkes was never seised thereof, but only entered by force, and so he was indicted, and this deponent was restored by a writ of restitution and so is seised thereof.

James Byng, aged 30 years, and Richard Waynewright, aged 59 years, say [as Robert Molle said].

Thomas Sharpuls, aged 60 years, says he has heard John Chomley of Wednesfeld, say to John Leveson that he was present in the Dean's court of Wolverhampton when Richard Wylkes the elder made a

surrender to Richard Wylkes his son, of all those lands and tenements bought of Olyver, that were late Pype's.

Richard Oliver, aged 50 years, says [as John Leveson has said].

Certificate of Walter Wrottesley, esquire, and William Salford, Stewards of the Dean of Windsor's manor of Wolverhampton.

For true certificate of the messuage and lands now in variance between John Wilkes and John Leveson, we, with certain of the lord's tenants, have made a search among the lord's records in his court rolled, and have found how one Richard Olyver of Bilston, made a surrender in the court of the manor aforesaid, 13 Henry VIII, of the said messuage and lands to the use of Richard Wylkes, father to the said John Wylkes, and also that at the court held Tuesday, 13th April, 20 Henry VIII., the said Richard Wylkes surrendered to the use of Richard Wylkes his younger son, all those lands that the said Richard the elder purchased of Thomas Pype, in the court rolled but only of the said Richard Olyver, as is before written. Notwithstanding we have heard say that the said messuage and lands were sometime Pype's land, and thus we will testify by the records aforesaid, and the said John Wylkes has copies of the said records, written by the hand of Richard Underhill deceased, late steward of the said manor.

THOS. LEVESON *v.* JAS. LEVESON.

Bundle 21, No. 222.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1538] Your orator Thomas Leveson. Whereas John Fletcher of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, held and yet holds a tenement in *Wolverhampton* for term of certain years not yet ended, for the yearly rent of 26*s.* 8*d.* paid to your orator. And forasmuch as part of the said rent was unpaid, at Christmas 28 Henry VIII, your orator came to the said John Fletcher and demanded of him his said rent, which he utterly refused, whereupon your orator resorted to the house of John Leveson his brother, and being there, Richard Scarbrigge, Walter Person, William Skevyngton and others to the number of 6 or 7 persons riotously with arms, 10th February, in the said year, and made assault upon him. And after, your said orator, the rent of the premises being unpaid by the space of one year, Christmas 28 (? 29) Henry VIII, repaired to the said tenement and asked his rent of the said John Fletcher at which time, 20th January, the 29th year (1538), James Leveson of Wolverhampton who bears malice against your said orator, caused the said William Skevyngton his son in law, Richard Skarbrigge, Thomas Wythwyk, William Wylkes, and

others to assemble themselves, who would have murdered your orator if he had not departed from the said tenement, and threatened to break his bones if he distrained for his said rent. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Richard Skarbrigge, etc., to appear before you to answer to the premises.

The answer of James Leveson.

As to the tenement rent and feigned riot, comprised in the said bill, if it were true, which it is not, he is not compellable to answer, forasmuch as the plaintiff in Easter or Trinity last exhibited a bill against him in which was comprised the self-same matter, and afterwards at the suit of the plaintiff a commission was directed to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert and Sir John Talbot, knight, to examine witnesses, which they did, and certified the same before the King in his Star Chamber, and the said commissioners by the assent of the parties made award concerning the said tenements, and the parties and commissioners put their hands to the same. Afterwards the said Thomas Leveson, plaintiff, refused to stand to the same award whereupon he made suit to the Lord Privy Seal, in whose hands the matter now depends. The defendant, willing to have a final end at his hands, has attended three terms past, and in default of the attendance of the said Thomas, the Lord Privy Seal cannot as yet determine his pleasure herein, by reason whereof the said defendant has incurred great costs. Also the said Thomas before this took a distress in the said tenement whereupon a replevyn was sued, which was moved at the suit of Thomas, out of the court of the Dean of Wolverhampton into the common law at Westminster, and there it yet remains. Wherefore he prays to be remitted to the common law with his reasonable costs. [Traverses the whole bill.]

The answer of William Skevyngton.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. As to any riot or assault, he is not guilty. Wherefore he prays to be dismissed out of the court with his reasonable costs.

THE INHABITANTS OF WOLVERHAMPTON *v.* THOMAS LEVESON, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 254.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

Your poor subjects William Sadford[1] of *Wolverhampton*, co. Staf- [1537-8]
ford, William Astyn, Richard Barry, Thomas Cowan, John Howlett,

[1] Called Wm. "Salfforde" and "Saltford," understeward of the Court of Wolverhampton for the Dean of the said town in 1538, Vol. X, N.S., i, p. 173.

Robert Whytmore, Thomas Fletcher, Richard Scaresbroke,[1] Rauffe Barton, William Cowper, Nicholas Wall, John Wilkys, John Chomley, Thomas Cowley, all of the same, with others. Whereas your said subjects are daily oppressed by one Thomas Leveson of the same town, gentleman, and others, his adherents, as in taking of heriots of your subjects to the same Thomas Leveson not due, and in wasting and destroying the corn and herbage of your said subjects with his cattle, and many times taking some of the cattle of your said subjects out of the commons and impounding them, and not suffering the said cattle to be delivered upon pledge but compelling your said subjects to replevy them, and setting persons to take men's cattle out of the common lanes and put them in his ground, and many times taking from your officers replevy whereby the process of your subjects cannot be sued, and threatening to murder them for doing their office, and by breaking your peace and causing your peace to be broken lately by one Richard Ryddeley, brother in law to the said Thomas Leveson, who with others lay in wait for Sir Thomas Jakson, priest, curate of the parish church of Wolverhampton, and made an assault upon him without any occasion given by the said priest. And when the same Ryddeley being in the ward of the constables of the town the same night, for suspicion of murder and the said Thomas Leveson and John Leveson with others came to the constables and would have had them deliver the said Ryddeley, the said constables answered that they had no authority so to do without commandment of your justices of the peace, the said Thomas Leveson said that if he were not in trouble in the law he would have taken the said Ryddeley from their ward by force. And further in setting variance and murder between townships by sending his man to your town of Walsall and bidding them make their bills of judgment ready to put up at the sessions and he would help them, saying that your subjects of Wolverhampton intended to put up bills upon them, and in riding to sessions to indite true men and women, wrongfully assisted by divers evil disposed persons. Also poor men plough their grounds and the said Thomas Leveson sows the said grounds and carries away the corn, alleging them to be his, and encroaches the same ground to his. Therefore please your highness to grant writs of commission to be directed to some indifferent gentlemen of co. Stafford, to enquire of the said misdemeanours of the said Thomas and other his adherents, and to answer to your highness for the said misdemeanours by a certain day to them limited.

[1] Called "Bayley" of Wolverhampton, Vol. X, N.S., i, p. 173.

[*Endorsed.*] Let this bill be committed to Walter Devereux, Lord Ferys.[1]

Bundle 25, No. 267.

John Howlatt, one of the plaintiffs, aged 36, says that Thomas Leveson took away the wheat of the lands of this deponent and withholds it. The land aforesaid is of the Prebend of Kynuerston, which this deponent has in farm. The said Thomas nor his ancestors hold no title to it. This deponent has two days' work of land of the Prebend of Kynuerston, in a field called Moummer Field shuttyng towards the "portwey" that leads towards Bilston and at the said Land's Ends towards the "Hyewey." The holders thereof have ploughed short because of destroying the corn with cattle and because it is better for grass to be sown by reason there is so much water on the said land. The said Thomas Leveson has "sett" the said Land's Ends to Nicholas Grene who tied his mare on it. The said Thomas said the land was his, so this deponent sued out a quest of office, and the said quest passed against the said Thomas Leveson and brought in the land to be of the Prebend of Kynuerston. Notwithstanding he on St. Paul's Day, mowed the hay and carried it away green, in sheets. Upon that this deponent took action against him in the Dean's Court and he would not answer till he was distrained, when he moved the action out of the court with an *accedas ad curiam.* Also the said Thomas cut this deponent's horse rope and put his horse out of the gate after the said judgment, and ploughs and sows one headland of the prebend.

Nicholas Jurden and William Gennyns, say that John Howlatt and Thomas Leveson chose them to make an end between them concerning the trespass done by Thomas against John Howlat, and they made award, by both parties consent, that the said Thomas Leveson should pay a quarter of oats to the said John Howlat for amends.

John Scheldon, aged 40 years, says that John Howlat had 6 lands in Abley Fyld destroyed, and that Thomas Leveson had his "*capullis*" going abroad, but who "stryed" the corn he knows not.

Thomas Flecher, one of the complainants, and William Benet say that Thomas Leveson has ploughed too far, by a team's length of a rein between the lands of John Howlat in Quebbe Fyldes.

Bundle 25, No. 290.

Richard Skaresbroke, one of the complainants, aged 40 years, says that on Monday in Easter week, two years past, Thomas Leveson sent

[1] Walter Devereux, lord Ferrers, b. 1490, succeeded 1501, K.G. 1523, C.J. South Wales 1525, created Viscount Hereford 1550, d. 1558.

for him, being an officer, and when he came the said Thomas Leveson took out his dagger and would have slain him, and if William Lane and William Mason, then churchwardens, had not come he had been slain.

This deponent says that about one year past, being bailiff of the town, two replevies came to him to fetch from him [Thomas Leveson] his neighbours' goods which he had wrongfully taken, and the said Thomas Leveson took from him the said replevies and thus his poor neighbours are remediless. Also he came to the house of John Leveson with a replevy, because Thomas Leveson was there, to serve a replevy on him for a piece of silver he took from the house of John Flecher, but the said Thomas Leveson accompanied with John Leveson, James Byng, Thomas Joukes and Richard Broke followed this deponent out of the house and would have slain him, and took from him his lord's staff which the lord's bailiff has been accustomed to bear. This deponent has many times sent Nicholas Waring, gentleman, to the said Thomas Leveson who answered that he would not deliver the said staff. The said Thomas Leveson would not obey the replevy so the party called John Flecher was constrained to sue a *withernam* and this deponent came to serve it, and met the team of the said Thomas coming from ploughing, and two men driving them called Richard Broke and John Couper. This deponent attached the said cattle but the said persons driving the said cattle said he should not have them, and would have slain him, had not rescue come.

William Benet, aged 50 years, says, and John Howlart, one of the plaintiffs, says, that they heard that Thomas Leveson took the bailiff's staff. When they were present, the two servants of Thomas Leveson hindered the bailiff and struck at him, but these deponents put them asunder and compelled them to let the bailiff do his office.

Bundle 25, No. 298.

The deposition of Thomas Fletcher against Thomas Luson, gentleman, hereafter follows :—

The said Thomas Fletcher, aged 44 years, says that whereas he has one acre of lease in a field called Horseley Fyld next the land of Thomas Luson, who 14 years ago ploughed and sowed one land thereof, and the said Thomas Fletcher asked him why he did so, he said that he should have more land there, and so he had the corn there. The next crop, after the field was sown, the said Thomas Fletcher "falced, sturryd and mukkyd" the said land, and sowed it. And at the time of the year [the said Thomas Luson] fetched away the corn, contrary to right.

On the other side of the same furlong he entered for one year, and tethered there with his horses, and for that year "I had never no recumpens but he extortiously yet [ate] therein with his cattell and seyde he wold make me amends, but ther ys non to be gootyn of hym but evull words and ongraciose." The said Thomas Fletcher had 1½ acres of arable land by a furlong of the said Thomas Luson called Wyndmyll furlong, which yearly the said Thomas Luson destroys with his cattle, and when the said Thomas Fletcher sends to impound his cattle, he beats and threatens his servants.

Humphrey Tonkes, servant to Thomas Flecher, aged 21 years, says that about 8 years past he found 2 horses tied on his master's lease, and he would have taken them to the fields but one of Thomas Lewson's servants took the horses of him, and his master took them again of Thomas Lewson's servant and brought them to the fields.

Nycolas Smyth, servant to Thomas Flecher, aged 21 years, says that he found Thomas Lewson's beasts in his master's corn and would have had them to the folds, then came Copes, servant to Thomas Leveson, and threw stones at him.

Bundle 25, No. 282.

The complaint of Thomas Cowlban, otherwise Coyster, against Thomas Luson, gentleman, upon such trespasses as the said Thomas Luson has done, hereafter follows :—

The said Thomas Cowlban, aged 56 years, says that Thomas Leveson, nine years ago, by his servant Humphrey killed a sow of his, price 5*s.* and he promised him amends, but in conclusion he stopped the price of the sow in his hands out of the wages of his said servant, and your deponent had no penny of it. The said Thomas Luson the same year destroyed a day work of corn of the deponent with his cattle, being nine thrave of rye at 2*s.* a strike. He would have given him the carriage home of the rest, but it would not serve for recompense of his unlawful doing. The said Thomas Luson destroyed a leasoe by Russellis Mores or Blakeuall, both corn and grass, through his own hedge, and this deponent is without remedy. The next year he destroyed the same lease, being barley, by estimation 20 strikes of barley at 12*d.* a strike, without recompense.

Robert Cut had a lease of James Byng of lands in Wolverhampton in Wyndefeld, before Mr. James Leveson had any title therein, dated 22nd March, 17 Henry VIII., which lease the said Robert set to this deponent. Upon that the said Thomas Luson, two years after your

deponent had mown the grass, came with his wain and carried all away, Some thereof was "coylyd" and some in "gras."

The next year this deponent would have made the grass on the same ground into hay but the night before it was ready he [Thomas Leveson] "soopyd" all away.

Nycolas Jurden, aged 56 years, says he heard Humphrey, Thomas Leveson's servant, say that he left us in his master's hands to pay Thomas Cryster for his sow, and that he and William Jenyns awarded Thomas Leveson to give Thomas Cryster 2*s.* for amends.

William Jenyns, aged 40 years, says as Nycolas Jurden said.

Richard Hyckmans, aged 40 years, says . . . . . [*Rest torn away*].

THOS. LEVESON *v.* ALEYN, ETC.

Bundle 21, No. 195.

The answer of Roger Aleyn, John Bache, Harry Flemyng, Roger Penson, William Cowper, Thomas Jacson, and Richard Barry to the bill of complaint of Thomas Leveson.

[*c.* 1538] The said bill is uncertain, etc., and the matter contained therein, except the surmised riot, is determinable at the common law. As to the riot, they are not guilty. They say that forasmuch as Thomas Leveson, John Leveson, and James Byng with others, withstood the bailiff of Wolverhampton and would not suffer him to serve a replevy of a certain distress taken by the said Thomas Leveson, but cruelly assaulted him, whereupon at a sessions held at Wolverhampton, before Walter Wrottelley, esquire, and other of the King's Justices of the peace, they were indited of riot. And forasmuch as certain of the defendants were inditors and gave evidence for the King, whereupon the said Thomas Leveson hath falsely procured this feigned matter and conceived malice against them. And forasmuch as the said Thomas Leveson is disposed to trouble and "inquiet" his poor neighbours, the said defendants be in great dread that he will constrain them to waste their goods unless the King's highness provide some remedy in this behalf. Without that that the said jury did untruly indite the said Thomas Leveson, and without that that the said jury for any favour they bear the said James Leveson, would not find the bill exhibited there by the said Thomas, against him, or any other named in the said bill.

The replication of Thomas Lewson to the answer of Roger Alen, John Bache, etc.

The said bill of complaint is certain, etc. Without that that the said

complainant John Lewson and James Byng named in the said answer withstood the bailiff of Wolverhampton. But the said complainant saith that the said bailiff of Wolverhampton by the provocation of certain of his enemies would have, by colour of a replevy, taken certain of his goods and chattels at Wolverhampton, whereof the said complainant took no such distress as was supposed. [*Traverses the rest of the answer.*]

JOHN LEVESON *v.* CRICHELEY, PYNSON, ETC.

Bundle 22, No. 339.

The answers of Thomas Cricheley, Thomas Willington, Roger Pynson, William Pynson, Henry Hawkins, and Raufe Foukes to the bill of complaint of John Leveson, esquire, plaintiff.

As to the supposed riots, etc., they are not guilty. Thomas [*c.* 1538] Cricheley and Thomas Willington, inhabitants of Great Saredon, co. Stafford, say that they as all the other inhabitants have common of pasture as appurtenant to their holdings in the said town for all cattle in the common called Chisteyn Haye, containing about 500 acres. The said complainant being a very greedy man, about 3 years since made a ditch cross over the said land and the ends of the said common, which ways those of the said township have used at all times to drive their cattle into the said common, and caused a hedge to be made upon the same, and caused the township's cattle to be chased away if any came that way. Therefore these defendants went by night and pulled up a quantity of hedging and made a convenient gap to put their cattle through, and quietly departed again. And this is the sum of all the supposed riot. And the said defendants and Raffe Tonkes and William Pynson say that, seeing the plaintiff most unlawfully make another great hedge in a place which had been common highway, they cut up 2 perches and thereby made a convenient gap into the said common to drive their cattle that way. Without that that this plaintiff is lawfully seised of this parcel of ground, or that it was lawful for him to enclose the same, or that the said defendants riotously assembled in the said place called Chistlyn Haye and cut down 3 gates and 6 gateposts, and cast down 100 perches of hedge, or that the said parcel of land is parcel of the forest of Cannock. Which matters the defendants are ready to prove.

Bundle 26, No. 302.

The replication of John Leveson, plaintiff, to the answers of Thomas Cricheleye and others.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. The said hay called Chistline Haye was until these few years last past, parcel of the Forest of Cannocke

otherwise Canck, and the manors of Great Saredon and Little Saredon were within the said forest, and parcel of the same manors were disafforested, as by records may appear. Further after the said disafforestment it was ordained at a Parliament held 33 Edward III., that those whose lands were so disafforested should have no benefit in their said forest, whereupon the owners of Chistline Haye enjoyed the said hay to their proper use without disturbance of any lawfully having common in the same. The tenants of Sareden have paid for agistment of their cattle and escapes of their beasts in the said hay, and the herbage of the said hay has been leased to divers persons time whereof no memory of man runs to the contrary, whereby it appears the said tenants could not have any common in the said forest, as in their answer is pretended. The said plaintiff being owner of the said hay hedged and inclosed the said Chystline Haye which remained so inclosed till the said defendants riotously pulled up the same. Without that that the inhabitants within the town of Great Sareden have always used to have common of pasture with all manner their cattle in Chistlyne Haye, and that the plaintiff to impoverish the said town made a ditch over the usual lanes and the end of the said common which the defendants have used at all times, but the plaintiff hedged the said hay as is before shown. Without that that he appointed any to watch the said hedge, or that they had any forcible weapons, and that Thomas Chrycheleye and William Willington in peaceable manner with no weapons but hedging bills cut down the gateposts of the said inclosure or that William Pynson, Ralph Tonkes and other inhabitants have time out of mind had common in the said hay, appurtenant to their tenements. And without that that this plaintiff made a great hedge in Leven Grene the common highway, but lawfully erected the same, or caused the same to be kept with force and with dogs, as is untruly alleged.

MAYNWARYNG *v.* CHOLMONDELEY.[1]

Bundle 29, No. 182.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1538] Your orator Randulphe Maynewarynge, tenant and household servant of Sir Randulphe Maynwarynge of Badley, co. Chester, knight. Whereas Richard Chomley of Chomley, in the same county, esquire, has a long time borne a mortal grudge towards your orator and his master, minding sundry times to have murdered them; in avoiding

[1] See also Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 157, 188.

whereof Sir William Brereton, knight, deputy chamberlain of Chester, 10th April in the 28th year of your reign caused the same Richard to appear before him in your Exchequer of Chester, where he with John Brayne, Robert Whitney, James Chetwoode and John Beidell were bound in £200 to keep the peace, for the said Richard Chomley, his brethren, tenants and servants against Sir Randulphe Maynewarynge, his brethren, tenants, and servants, until the next "shere" to be held in the said county, then to appear in the said Exchequer and not depart without licence. The said Richard Chomley, not regarding the said recognisance, having knowledge of your orator being at London, caused Hugh Lowther his tenant, servant to Edward Mynshule, to lie as a spy at Awseley near Coventry, being your orator's way home, so that he might accomplish his malicious purpose upon your orator on his coming home. As soon as your orator passed by, *i.e.*, on Friday about noon, the said Hugh Lowther rode forth until he came to the said Richard Chomley at Chomley, being 15 miles distant, and thereupon the said Richard with Radulphe Hanmer, in co. Flint, Raulff Crofton, William Wysctede, John Grafton. Robert Dee, Randulph Ede, otherwise Randulph ap Edward ap David, Humfrey Hangmer, friends and servants of the said Richard, and William Smythe, servant to Thomas Boothe of Chomley, travelled towards Stone, leaving the highway at divers times and breaking down hedges, through men's closes till they came to Chalton, co. Stafford, there stayed two hours till your orator with Humfrey Baskervile and Richard Hepey his servants, with Humfrey Maynwarynge of Nantwich, gentleman, Saturday 1st December came along, and there and then made assault with their forcible weapons, on your orator and his company, and left your orator and Baskervile for dead. That done, for doubt of pursuit, they resorted to a village called Chypnall, in Shropshire, and from there to Newport, remaining yet unpunished and at liberty. In consideration thereof, and forasmuch as the said Richard Chomley and other riotous persons be justly indicted of the said riot in co. Stafford, where it was done, and not in the county palatine where the said Chomley and others reside [please your highness] to direct writs of privy seal to the said Richard Chumley commanding him and other forenamed riotous persons to appear before you, etc.

The answer of Richard Chomley.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. The said Randall has a long time borne malice against the said Richard, and often attempted to destroy him, and in accomplishment thereof he and his servants have used to ride in armour, perceiving

which, the said Richard and his servants for his defence were some time in armour.[1] Further at the time of the said assault the said Richard had business at London and rode towards the same with 6 of his servants, and Randoll Hanmere, and chanced to meet the said Randoll [plaintiff]. When the said Randoll met with the said Richard, he and his servant alighted from their horses, and assaulted the said Richard and his servants, which perceiving, they alighted from their horses and defended themselves. Such hurt as the said Randoll and his servants had, was only in defence of the said Richard and his servants, and of their own assault, after which affray the said Randoll complained against him before the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, William Sulyard, esquire, and other of the King's commissioners in his Marches of Wales for the said hurts although they came of his own assault, and were done in co. Stafford. Yet because both parties were resident in the county palatine of Chester, and by reason of letters of Sir Thomas Audeley, knight, Lord Chancellor of England, and Sir Thomas Crumwell, knight, Lord Privy Seal, directed to the said commissioners to hear the matter, the same Randoll agreed that he would obey the determination of the said commissioners. Upon the corrupt surmises of the said Randoll the commissioners committed the said Richard to prison at Shrewsbury, where he remained five weeks. Afterwards the said commissioners upon the said surmises committed him to straighter prison at Wygmore Castle in Wygmoreland, in the said Marches, where he remained 8 weeks, which imprisonment continued from 26th December last to the 26th March next following. After that the said commissioners, by the assent of both parties, would have proceeded further in the matter, to have made an end, which being perceived by the said Randoll, and that the truth of the matter was like to appear, he would not come before them but made default twice, in contempt of the court held, before the said commission. Further, the said Randoll, during the time the said Richard was in prison, caused him to be indicted of the said offence in co. Stafford, and in Chester, and divers friends of the said Richard to be indicted in like manner, who were not at the assault. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Rauff Croxton, William Wysctede, John Grafton, Randulph Edwards and William Smythe.

As before, in Richard Chomley's answer.

[1] The habit of riding in armour had evidently gone out. Observe that they dismounted before fighting.

The replication of Randull Maynwareng to the answer of Richard Cholmeley.

As before, in his bill of complaint.

The replication of Randull Maynwareng to the answers of Rauffe Croxton, etc.

Writ of dedimus potestatem *to Edward Aston, knight, Philip Draycott, knight, Edward Lytelton and James Lewson, esquires, to examine witnesses in the matter, dated at Westminster, 22 June, 30 Henry VIII.*

Witnesses examined on behalf of Randull Maynwaryng :—Raufe Croxton, servant to Richard Cholmey, esquire, William Wysctede, John Grafton, Randall Edwarde, William Smith, servants to Mr. Cholmeley [*depose as is contained in the answer of Richard Chomley*]. Edward Lodge, gentleman, aged 36 years, Roger Maynwerynge, aged 52 years, George Lyster, aged 20 years, John Holden, mynstrel, aged 37 years, Randulph Wryght, aged 80 years, Richard Unwyn, aged 60 years, Agnes Dykkyns, singlewoman, aged 24 years, Humfrey Maynwerynge, gentleman, aged 43 years, William Short, yeoman, aged 40 years, Thomas Fydler otherwise Rode, aged 36 years, Sir Gilbert Lyghtfote, clerk, aged 47 years [*Depositions very lengthy. Matter as is contained in the bill of complaint*].

THORLEY *v.* WHELOCK.

Bundle 33, No. 1.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Richard Thorley is possessed of a mease in *Bedull*, [1538] (*Biddulph*), co. Stafford, and of a pasture there, called the Loundes, belonging to the same, as tenant to John Cotton, esquire, by the space of 40 years. So it is that Sir Nicholas Whelok, vicar of Bedull, John Whelock of the same, sherman, John Banne of the same, husbandman, William Wynkyll of the same, labourer, Thomas Whelok of Sandbache, co. Chester, webster, with other riotous persons, 15th April last, with force entered the said pasture and made assault on Rauff Thorley son of your orator, and further, with Agnes Whelok and Agnes Doksey, riotously assembled, 2nd May last, and entered the said pasture and made assault upon the said Rauff Thorley then being there. Your orator has divers times complained of such riots, before the justices of the peace in the same county, but the said Sir Nicholas Whelok is so greatly friended in the said county that your orator can have no remedy. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* against the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Nycholas Whelok, William Wynkle and John Banne.

The said bill is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. A long time before the surmised riot the said Nicholas Whelok was and yet is vicar of Bidulphe, to which vicarage there belongs not above 3 acres, which is not sufficient for the maintenance of the household of the defendant, for the help whereof the plaintiff, 29th September in the 25th year of the reign of King Henry VIII [1533], granted to the said defendant, the said pasture called Lowndes, for a term of 10 years then next ensuing. The said Nicholas Whelok entered into and was possessed thereof and occupied the same until 15th April specified in the said bill of complaint at which time Rauff Thorley and Hugh Thorley, sons of the plaintiff, Reynold Slater and John Stonehewer by command of the plaintiff riotously came to the said pasture and finding two persons hired by this defendant hedging the said ground, commanded them to meddle no further therewith, and brought into the same pasture certain cattle to feed. Thereupon the defendant with John Whelok his brother came to the pasture to drive the said cattle to the common pound, at whose coming the said riotous persons made assault upon the said defendant and his brother, and not contented therewith, 2nd May mentioned in the said bill, the plaintiff sent 20 of his cattle to feed in the said pasture. This defendant peaceably repaired to the said pasture, at whose coming thither Rauffe Thorley, Hugh Thorley, John Thorley the younger and Reynold Slater, Alice Thorley and Amy Toft in riotous manner made assault upon him and his brother. For which assaults the said riotous persons were indicted, and also of trespass. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

Writ of dedimus potestatem *to William Brerton, Edward Fytton, knights, Lawrence Savage and William Morton, esquires, to examine witnesses in the matter, dated at Westminster, 12th July,* 30 *Henry VIII.*

A certificate made by the said commissioners.

Depositions taken before Sir William Brereton, knight, Sir Edward Fytton, knight, and William Moreton, esquire, by virtue of the King's writ directed to them, concerning a matter in variance between Richard Thorley, plaintiff, and Nicholas Whelok and others, at Buglawton, 23rd September, in the 30th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord the King.

On the part of Richard Thorley.

John Stonehewer, aged 50 years, says that 15th April last he heard a great noise between the servants of Sir Nicholas Wheloke and the

servants of Richard Thorley in the Lowndes pasture, about the making of "heyment."

John Goslyng, aged 50 years, says he saw no misdemeanour that day, but one Raynold Sclater, servant to Richard Thorley, said he would strike the vicar, and then Agnes Whelok held his staff.

We had no proofs that the plaintiff was in possession of the said pasture the days specified, or four years before that time. Also we had no proofs, whereby the plaintiff could prove any riot, etc., done by William Wynkle or John Bann.

On the part of Nicholas Wheylok.

The said Nicholas showed an indenture made to him by the said Richard Thorley, dated 29th September in the 25th year of King Henry the Eighth, for term of 10 years next ensuing, the rent whereof for the said 10 years was beforehand paid to the said Richard, as the same indenture makes mention.

Richard Bedulf, esquire, aged 45 years, says he was present when Richard Thorley made the said lease and sealed the indenture and delivered it to the said Sir Nicholas who by virtue of the said lease has been in possession of the said pasture, since the date of the indenture, and yet is.

William Wynkull, aged 71 years, and John Bann, aged 46 years, also John Goslyng, aged 50 years, say as Richard Bedulf has before them rehearsed. Also the said John Bann and John Mylnes, aged 28 years, say they came into the said pasture 2nd May, immediately after the affray, and found Rauffe Thorley, John Thorley the younger, Hugh Thorley, Regnold Sclater, Alys Thorley and Amy Toft, on the part of the plaintiff, having with them certain cattle, and Sir Nycholas Whelok, [etc.], would have taken the said cattle to the pound, but who began the said affray he knows not.

But for proof of the riot to be in the said plaintiff Sir Nycholas showed divers copies of bills of indictment signed with the hand of the clerk of the peace, of co. Stafford, which mention the said Rauffe Thorley [etc.], to be indicted as well of riot as of trespass.

Wyllyam Brereton.
Edward Fyton.
Wyllyam Moreton.

[*Endorsed.*] Brought in by William Warde, servant to Mr. Fitton one of the commissioners, 14th October, in the 30th year.

BURY *v.* CLEMPSON.

Bundle 23, No. 264.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1538] Your orator Lawrence Bury, and Elizabeth his wife, administrators of the goods and chattels of Richard Cockys and Elizabeth his wife. Whereas the said Richard Cockys and Elizabeth his wife were seised of goods to the value of 40 marks and died intestate December last, in the parish of *Patyngham*, co. Stafford, Elizabeth, wife of your orator, being their daughter, administration of the goods of the said Richard Cockes and Elizabeth was committed to your orator. But so it is that Roger Clemyston of Patyngham, yeoman, and James Cockes of the same, yeoman, by the procurement of Walter Rotheley (Wrottesley), esquire, and others, 2nd March 29 Henry VIII., riotously assembled and carried away the said goods and chattels, and will not permit your orator to have the same. Please your highness to grant your writ of injunction to be directed to the said Walter Rotheley, Roger Clemyston and James Cockes, enjoining them to deliver all the said goods and chattels to your orator, and that upon the pain of £300, or else to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Roger Clempson.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. He never took or withheld the said goods and chattels of the said Richard Cockes and Elizabeth his wife. He prays he may be dismissed out of the court with his costs, for his wrongful vexation sustained in this behalf.

SHARPE *v.* LAUGHTONHOUSE.

Bundle 29, No. 63.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1538] Your orator John Sharpe. Whereas William Grafton (? Trotton), Abbot of the monastery of our Lady of Rochester, co. Stafford, was seised of a messuage, 40 acres of land and 20 acres of pasture in *Rochester*, co. Stafford, in right of his said house, and by his deed, dated 4th October in the 29th year of your reign, to farm let to your said orator the said messuage, etc., for a term of 21 years, paying therefor yearly to the said Abbot and his successors five marks, by virtue whereof your orator was thereof peaceably possessed, until William Loughtonhouse of Rochester, yeoman, with other riotous

persons, with force and arms, 4th February, in the 29th year of your reign came to Rochester and entered into the said messuage, etc., and since the said day has kept the premises. Further the said William Loughtonhouse has waged and given rewards to divers riotous persons in the said county about the said town of Rochester, to lie in wait upon your orator "to beyte, meyheyn" or kill him, by reason whereof your orator cannot go about his necessary business in peace. Please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Laughtonhouse, commanding him to appear before you, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] Immediately.

The answer of William Laughtonhouse.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. [*Traverses the whole bill.*]

The replication of John Sharp.

His said bill is very just and true, etc. Forasmuch as the said William Laughtonhouse does not deny the occupation of the said messuage and other the premises, and shows no cause why he ought to to do, the said John Sharp prays he may be ordered to avoid the premises and to suffer the said Sharp to quietly occupy the same, or else that the said Laughtonhouse be compelled to show sufficient matter why he ought not so to do.

Bundle 34, No. 35.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator John Sharpe . . . Whereas William Trotton [1538] (? Grafton), late Abbot of the house of Our Blessed Mary of Roceyter, co. Stafford, was seised of a messuage, etc., called *Loughtonhouse farm*, and by his deed dated 4th October in the 29th year of your reign to farm let the same to your orator, for 21 years, by force whereof your orator was possessed, and so being in peaceable possession, William Loughtonhouse of Roceyter with other riotous persons with force and arms entered the said messuage and other the premises. Your said orator . . . of complaint in this court, which same bill was awarded against the said William, whereupon . . . by the Chancellor and other Lords of your Council here in this court that . . . should enjoy the messuage, etc., to the feast of St. . . . and the said Loughtonhowse suffer your orator to enter in the following . . . , according to the custom of the country. So it is that your orator according to the said decree . . . into a parcel of the premises and have made follow thereof at Candlemas last . . . wise

permit your orator so to do contrary to the said decree. Further of . . . malice the said Loughtonhowse owes and bears to your orator . . . in wait to murder him, and for his labour he should have 4*s.*, upon which . . . to him Robert Jemer being an evil disposed person, so the said Weythinton . . . of the said Loughtonhouse did conclude to murder your orator, and for the same . . . divers times lay in wait of the said John Sharpe. Which matter at a sessions held at Stafford . . . before your justices of the peace was found . . . . In consideration whereof please your highness to grant . . . to the said William Loughtonhouse, Thomas Weythinton and Robert Jemer, commanding them to appear to answer as well to the breaking of the said decree . . . . [*Half the document burnt away.*]

WOOD *v.* BURTON.

Bundle 31, No. 82.

To the Kinges moste excellent highnes.

[1538] Your poor subject Anthony Wood was and is lawfully seised of 10 acres of land in your lordship or manor of *Newe Castell under Lyme*, co. Stafford, which premises Richard Depedale held by demise of your said subject to him, for a certain rent, from year to year. So it is that Ranulphe Harryson, John Burton, Richard Harryson, Robert Parker, Rogier Bromefeilde, and Raulf Egge and others, by the procurement of William Sneyde, esquire, the 5th day of August, the 30th year of your reign, riotously and in forcible manner, broke and entered the said 10 acres of land and wrongfully disseised as well your said orator as the said Richard, his tenant, and laded two carts with rye, of the goods of the said Richard, and took and carried away the same. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, etc., commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises.

The answer of John Burton.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. Edward Woode, brother of the plaintiff, was seised of the said 10 acres, and sold the premises to Richard Snede, father of William Snede mentioned in the said bill, by force whereof the said Richard was seised by the space of 12 years or thereabouts, and died, after whose decease the premises descended to the said William Snede as son and heir of the said Richard. The said William was thereof seised and let the same to Richard Depdale to hold from year to year paying a certain rent; by virtue whereof the said

Depdall occupied the premises one year and paid the rent due to the said William. Long before the feast of St. Michael next before the taking of the said rye the said William gave lawful warning to the said Depdall to avoid the occupation of the premises, and after the said Depdall entered into the premises after his term ended and sowed part of the premises with rye. The said defendant, as servant to William Snede and by his commandment, the day specified, without any weapon except a fork to pitch the cart withall, in peaceable manner took the said two wainloads of rye for damages done upon the premises as was lawful. Thereupon the said Depdall avoided the possession of the premises and the said defendant as servant to his master peaceably entered the premises. Shortly after the said William Snede newly demised the premises to the said Depdell, to hold for a certain term yielding to the said William a certain rent, by force whereof the said Depdall entered and was and yet is thereof possessed, and truly paid his rent due for the same. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

STAUNFORD *v.* WYSTOWE.

Bundle 28, No. 69.

To the King.

Your subject William Staunford, gentleman. Whereas Harry, [1538] Lord Stafford, and Ursula his wife were seised of the manor of *Pakyngton*, co. Stafford, of the gift of your grace, the reversion thereof belonging to your highness, and 23 May, in the 28th year of your reign, leased to your said subject the said manor, for the term of 50 years, paying yearly to the said Lord Stafford and Ursula, £4 13*s.* 4*d.*, by force whereof your subject was thereof possessed, and on the feast of Sts. Philip and James, in this 29th year of your reign, sent Richard Woodwall and Henry Alred his servants to see that no cattle were in his pastures parcel of the same manor. Who found certain cattle of John Swynfen and Edward Bayly depasturing there in a pasture called Rough Cornells, which they took and drove away with the intent to impound them for the same damage. So it is that John Wystowe of Stotfold, co. Stafford, gentleman, the said John Swynfen of Pakyngton aforesaid, gentleman, Edward Bayly of the same, husbandman, Robert Malton of Burton-on-Trent, chaplain, Jerard Hornbye of Stotfold aforesaid, labourer, John Holland of the same, labourer, Gregory Buttry of the same, labourer, with other riotous persons, having knowledge of the said driving towards the pound, unlawfully assembled at Pakyngton, by the procurement of the said John Wistowe, and in riotous manner

made assault upon the said Richard Wodwall and Henry Alred and with force and arms took the said beasts and horses. It may please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Wystowe, etc., commanding them to appear before you, at a certain day, and upon a certain pain by your grace to be limited.

[*Endorsed.*] Before the Council on the quindene of Holy Trinity next.

WISTOWE *v.* CLERK.

Bundle 22, No. 185.

Your orator John Wystowe of Stotfolde, co. Stafford. Whereas your orator was at *Tamworthe*, co. Stafford, on Christmas Eve last. Thomas Clerke, yeoman, of Bangle, co. Stafford, Roger Wyghte of Tomworthe, tailor, with other persons riotously made assault upon your orator. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said persons, commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises.

HOWLET *v.* JOHN LEVYSON.

Bundle 21, No. 35.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1539] Your subjects Stephen Howlet, of Over Penne, co. Stafford, husbandman, and Johan his wife. Whereas they were lately seised of a mese and 100 acres of land in *Nether Penne* and *Over Penne* in right of the said Johan, late wife of John Barneley, deceased, for term of her life, and the reversion thereof to one William Barneley belonging, as son and heir of the said John, now of late John Luson of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, gentleman, with Robert Allen and one Preston and others to the number of 7, 12th July, 31 Henry VIII., with force and arms entered parcel of the premises and broke the walls of the said mese, and assaulted your subjects and Alice Fregilton their serving woman, and put 160 sheep into the pastures of your subjects and yet keep them there, and carried away 10 loads of hay and grass from the said ground to the undoing of your subjects. Please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Luson, etc., to appear before you to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of St. Michael.

The answer of John Leveson.

As to any riot, forcible entry, etc., he is not guilty. Further he saith that the said complainants long before the surmised riot, for a certain sum of money received of the defendant, sold the mese and lands mentioned, to the defendant, to have to him and his heirs for ever, and a fine was levied by the plaintiffs of the premises, before the King's Justices, to the use of the defendant by force whereof he was seised of the premises. Notwithstanding which sale the plaintiffs not only occupy the said premises, but took 60 or 80 sheep of the defendant, feeding upon parcell of the said land and impounded them, and would not deliver them, whereupon Robert Harrys and Roger Prestwood peaceably took the said sheep and drove them to the house of the defendant. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

HOWLAT *v.* THOS. LEVESON.

Bundle 25, No. 102.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

Your orator John Howlat of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, draper. Whereas Thomas Leveson of the same town, gentleman, was seised of a messuage in *Dudley Street, Wolverhampton*, adjoining the tenement of your orator, from which a rafter slipped downwards towards the tenement of your subject, and hangs over it by the length of one foot, and after, your subject was driven by necessity to reedify his said tenement, which he could not do until the said rafter was put again in its right place, or so much as overhung your orator's tenement should be cut away. Which the said Leveson would not do. Wherefore John Baxster, carpenter, cut off so much as hung over the said Howlat's ground, which being perceived by Leveson he brought an action of trespass against your subjects and the said John Baxster and Humfrey Pery and Thomas Adams. Whereupon a writ was awarded to the sheriff of co. Stafford to inquire into the damages. Whereupon Ralph Wobaston, Roger Alen of Hilton, Humphey Walker of Fetherston, Thomas Hancokes of Compton, Francis Stedeman, Ralph Hasells, John Madeley, Thomas Chilton, Thomas Foorde, Thomas Adderley, John Bartram, and John Jenkyns, most part tenants of Leveson, were sworn to inquire, upon whom your orator could have no challenge, because it was upon an inquest of office, and found the damages of the said trespass at 40*s.*, whereas the said spar was not worth above 2*d.* So it is that the said Thomas Leveson is so allied with jurors of the said county, that upon feigned actions he daily vexes your orator, and obtained against him

100*s.* 2*d.* damages, for which he served a *capias ad satisfaciendum* against your subject, and had of him the said sum. After your orator repaired to London to have had a matter heard in your court of Chancery depending against your orator and William Salford at the suit of Leveson, but the said Leveson caused the sheriff of Middlesex to arrest your subject upon a false surmise, and he was taken to Westminster Hall and obliged to disburse again 100*s.* 2*d.* And the said Leveson made your orator prisoner in two courts at one time, to wit, prisoner to the Marshelsea and prisoner to the sheriff of Middlesex. And so the said Leveson daily vexes your orator, without ground, and since your poor subject for the said excess damages has no remedy to punish the said perjury of the said jury please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to Thomas Leveson, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsement.*] On the quindene of St. Michael.

Bundle 25, No. 94.

The answer of Thomas Leveson.

The said bill is untrue, etc. The said John Howlat built his new house so that it stands leaning upon the capital messuage of the said Thomas Leveson so that all the rain and water that fall upon it descends upon the capital messuage, to the great damage of Thomas. Also he broke down the spars of the said capital messuage, for which trespasses Thomas Leveson brought action against the said John Howlat before the King at Westminster, to the damages of £5, which trespasses the said John Howlat confessed. And the said Thomas Leveson afterwards sued a writ out of the said court to enquire of damages, which was directed to the sheriff of co. Stafford. The jury the most part of them being unknown to the said Thomas did give him damages 43*s.* 4*d.* where of truth it was much more. Further, Thomas Leveson is seised of 3 acres of arable land in Wolverhampton and 3 other acres by lease of William Underhill, and because the said John Howlat trespassed upon the said 6 acres with his cattle, the said Thomas brought an action of trespass against him, and upon that issue sued out a *nisi prius* but for lack of a sufficient jury the said Thomas sued a *decem tales* and recovered for his costs and damages £5 2*d.* The said Thomas after that sued a *capias ad satisfaciendum* directed to the sheriff of Staffordshire for his costs, which the said sheriff did not execute, wherefore the said Thomas came to Westminster Hall in Trinity last and sued another writ of *capias ad satisfaciendum.* And he desired the under-sheriff of Middlesex to do his office, who unknown to the said Thomas, arrested

the said John upon a bill in Middlesex, which was not the mind of Thomas, but only to proceed at the Common Law. By this arrest no damages were done to John Howlat for he did not pay fee for his arrest to the under-sheriff of Middlesex, but the said Thomas Leveson paid all the costs. After that the sheriff of Staffordshire said he would answer the said £5 2*d.* to the said Thomas Leveson, and paid it to him, which was all he had of John Howlat for the recovery in the said action. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of John Bartram to the bill of John Howlate.

The said bill is insufficient, etc. The said John Bartram and his fellows found the said damages of 40*s.* to Thomas Leveson, without bearing any favour to Leveson, but according to verity and truth, as was lawful for them to do. Without that that any of them were tenants or confederates of the said Thomas, and that they have committed perjury.

Bundle 21, No. 178.

The answer of Richard Hassells to the bill of complaint of John Howlat.

The said bill of complaint is insufficient, etc., and contrived against him and his fellows in a certain jury and inquest of office, slanderously. Further he saith that true it is that Thomas Leveson brought an action of trespass against John Howlat, for breaking his house in Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, to the damages of £5, whereby the said John Howlat and other defendants by their attorney appeared in court, and confessed their trespass, whereby a writ to inquire of damages was awarded, and directed to the sheriff of co. Stafford who returned the said Hassells and his fellows to enquire for the damage of the party plaintiff. And after substantial knowledge given to them, they found the said damages of 40*s.*, without bearing any favour to the said Leveson. Without that that there was any such ringleader of the inquest as is alleged, or that the said damages were found out of reason, or that the spars so broken were not worth 2*d.*, or that Thomas Leveson is confederate with any jury in the said county, or that the said Richard was a common juror for he never passed any jury before this, to his remembrance, or that he was acquainted with Leveson, or that he committed any perjury.

Bundle 21, No. 69.

The replication of John Howlet to the several answers of Thomas Leveson, John Barteram and Richard Hassells.

The bill of complaint is certain and sufficient, etc. Without that

that the said John Howlet did build up his house adjoining the mese of John Leveson, unlawfully, or stop the light of the said mese, or brake any part of the same, but only cut the end of the spar lying over his ground; or that he so builded the said mese that any water shall gutter or other thing of the said new house shall hurt the said Leveson; or that any matter was submitted the action wherein the jury committed perjury as is surmised in the said Leveson's answer, or that he confessed the action of trespass brought against him by the said Leveson, or that the panel returned by the sheriff in the writ was an indifferent panel or was unknown to the said Leveson, or that there were any damages done to the said Leveson by the said Howlet, or that any jurors at the said *nisi prius* made default by any labour of the said Howlet, or that the sheriff did not execute the said writ of *capias ad satisfaciendum* against the said Howlet, or that the said Leveson lacked knowledge of the execution of the writ at such time as he made Howlet to be newly arrested in Midd[lesex] for the execution done before in co. Stafford; for he says that the said Leveson caused the said bill of Middlesex to be entered in his own person standing present in court, caused it to be served on him, and caused him to be arrested and brought to the bar in the King's Bench, but could allege no manner of cause against him. But when he saw that the said Howlet was arrested and in ward, and had paid divers fees to his great costs, the said Leveson then having his purpose, was non-suit, and insomuch as the double execution and the said unlawful arrest by the bill of Middlesex, are confessed by Leveson, the said Howlet prays therefore, his costs therein. And without that that the said John Bartram, Richard Hassell and their fellows did truly pass in the said quest of office according to right, or did give reasonable damages according to the said trespass, or that he confessed the said trespass against Leveson, and that there was any evidence given to Bertram, Hassells and their fellows whereby they had cause to pass in the said inquest of office as they did, as is submitted by them in their answers.

MACCLESFIELD *v.* GRAVENOUR.

Bundle 29, No. 196.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1539] Your poor subject Ralph Maclesfeld of Mere, co. Stafford, gentleman, was seised of an estate of inheritance in the manor of *Mere* (*Maer*), *co. Stafford*, and so being of the said manor seised, Randulf Gravenour, esquire, William Gravenor, Robert Gravenor, gentleman,

Hammond Gravenor, clerk, Hugh Dale, William Meredythe, and Richard Butterton, with other riotous persons, the 30th August, in the 31st year of your reign, having no manner of interest or title to the said manor, entered into two acres of arable land parcel of the said manor and there would have made a great affray upon your said subject, if they had not been hindered by John Boyer, and John Bromeley and others there present. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Randulph, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the octaves of St. Hillary, 31st [year].

BABYNGTON *v.* GEMME, ETC.[1]

Bundle 32, No. 153.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator William Babyngton. Whereas William, late Abbot of [1539] the late monastery of Meryvall, co. Warwick, was seised of 6 acres of meadow in *Tymoner* (*Tynmore*), co. Stafford, in right of his said monastery, abutting upon Monk's meadow on one part, and on the other part upon Owfrege Holme, on the river Tame, and granted and to farm let to the said William Babyngton and Mary his wife the same meadow amongst other lands, etc., by name of all those lands belonging to the said abbot in Tymoner and Elford, for term of years, by force whereof the said William Babyngton and Mary were thereof possessed until the Saturday after Low Sunday last, John Gemme of Whytington, co. Stafford, yeoman, John Huoys otherwise John Wharthaw of the same, husbandman, Thomas Tylman of the same, labourer, John Germyns of Elford, co. Stafford, yeoman, Peter Fulcoysse of the same, husbandman, riotously assembled at Tymoner and with force and arms entered the said meadow, the reversion of the fee simple of all which premises is in your highness by reason of the surrender of the said late monastery into your hands. In consideration whereof please your highness to grants writs of *subpena* against the said John Gemme, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises, etc.

The replication of William Babyngton.

The said bill of complaint is true, etc. Without that that Henry Geme, father of the said John Geme, was seised in a parcel of meadow

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 120, 125, which fixes the date as 1539.

in Tymover, between the ground of the late abbot of Myryvall and the holme of the lord of the manor of Elfford, or that Henry Geme died seised of the same, or that after the death of Henry the said parcel descended to the said John, as son and heir of the said Henry, or that by force of such descent the said John had peaceable possession of the same, or that John Gemme demised the same to the said William Babyngton from year to year, yielding therefor a certain rent, or that the said William by force of such demise occupied the same by the space of 10 years, or paid any rent to the said John Geme, or that the said John, at the feast of the Annunciation last, discharged the said William Babyngton of the occupation of the same, or that the said John sold the same to John Chaterton and his heirs, or that the said John Geme, the Saturday after Low Sunday last, with the said John Hewes and Thomas Tylman entered into the said parcel of meadow and delivered seisin of the same in the presence of William Babyngton and others, or that the same William was there at the desire of John Geme.

WRYGHT *v.* SKEVYNGTON.

Bundle 26, No. 183.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1539] Your orator Thomas Wryght of Wychenor, co. Stafford. Whereas Sir John Skevyngton[1] knight, late Alderman of the city of London, deceased, was seised of the manor of *Fyscherwyke*, co. Stafford, with certain messuages, etc., thereto belonging, and enfeoffed certain persons to have to his use to perform his last will which he made in the 16th year of your reign (1524/5), and by the same among other things willed that Dame Elizabeth his wife after his death should enjoy the said manor for term of her life. And, after the said Sir John Skevyngton died, Dame Elizabeth so being seised, took to husband Sir John Dauncey, knight, one of your grace's Council, after which marriage the said Sir John Dauncey and Elizabeth his wife by their deed dated 18th September in the 19th year of your reign, granted the said manor to your orator for as long as the manor should be in the hands of the said Sir John Dauncey in right of Elizabeth his wife, paying therefor yearly a certain rent. Of late, that is to say, 26th March in the 30th year of your reign, William Skevyngton of the said county,

[1] Sir John Skeffington, sheriff of London in 1521, bought Fisherwick, and died in 1525. William, his son and heir, was then under age (13 years old). (Shaw, *Staffs.*, I., 373.)

esquire, son and heir to the said Sir John Skevyngton, by threatening, has compelled the tenants of the said manor to pay to him the rents due to your orator, and to compel your orator to forsake his interest of the same, pursues deliverance of their beasts and cattle when your orator distrains them for their rent, so that he has no profit of the premises, and with his servants resorts to the said manor so that if orator were to come there for his rent, he were like to be murdered. Wherefore please your grace to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Skevyngton and other riotous persons, to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of William Skevyngton.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to the surmised riot, etc., he is not guilty. If any such lease were made by Sir John Dauncey and Dame Elizabeth his wife of the premises to the plaintiff, it appears that it is but a lease at will of the lessors and not otherwise, by the plaintiff's own showing, after which supposed lease, the said Sir John Dancy and Dame Elizabeth his wife by due order of the spiritual law, and by their mutual assent were divorced, whereupon it was agreed that the said Elizabeth should have during her life all such lands as were Sir John Skevyngton's her late husband, given to her by his last will, and that Sir John Dancy should have all her movable goods which she brought to him, which were worth 1,000 marks. So they parted and by force thereof the said Elizabeth ever since has taken the profits of all her own lands, and so being seised the said defendant by command of the said Elizabeth entered into the said lands and received the rents thereof. Without that that Sir John Dancy and Elizabeth his wife made any such lease of the premises, or that he ever threatened the tenants of the premises in manner as in the bill is surmised.

SAVAGE *v.* BIDULPH.[1]

Bundle 29, No. 143.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Lawrence Savage of the Wall Grange, co. Stafford, [1539] esquire, 27th January in the 29th year of your reign, at Mylstrete, Leek, co. Stafford, demised to Richard Bedulfe of Bedulfe[2] in the said

[1] See "Biddulph *v.* Savage," Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 152. Lawrence Savage had married Ellen, daughter and heiress of Wm. Egerton, of Wallgrange.

[2] Ric. Biddulph, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of John Salwey, of Stamford, co. Salop, see *ante* p. 44. He was b. 1492–3 (see p. 123 *ante*), and d. 1551.

county, esquire, a third part of a great pasture called *Horton Heye, in Horton Curte,* co. Stafford, for a term of 18 years, paying therefor yearly to the said Lawrence and his assigns £3, with a proviso that if the said Lawrence should within that time pay to the said Richard or his assigns £13 6*s.* 8*d.*, giving warning to the said Richard by the space of one year before the same Richard should depart, that then he should depart without delay, by force whereof the said Richard occupied the premises for 5½ years. The said Lawrence, about 21st September, in the 31st year of your reign at Byddulfe, co. Stafford, by Elizabeth his wife, offered payment of the said £13 6*s.* 8*d.*, and at divers other times and places the said Lawrence has tended payment, and given warning in form aforesaid, but the said money to take, or to depart, he (Biddulph) at all times refused and denys, and continues unlawfully the possession of the premises from that day to this. Though your orator, at the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross last past, took upon him peaceably to have reentered the premises according to the agreement aforesaid, that to suffer, the said Richard with Thomas Wulsnam, Thomas Assap and other misruled persons, there unlawfully assembled in riotous manner within the said ground, with force and arms kept your subject from entering into the premises, and so they have kept and yet do keep it. And forasmuch as the said Richard is a man of great power in those parts, so that your orator is not able to indict him for his said forcible keeping of the premises. Wherefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to Richard Bedulfe, Thomas Wulsnam, and Thomas Assap, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the quindene of St. Michael.

TURNER *v.* BARNEFELD.

Bundle 30, No. 119.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

[1540] Your orator Thomas Turnour of Chillington, co. Stafford, yeoman. Whereas Robert Barnefeld of Newport, co. Salop, tanner, and Ellen his wife, William Hyll of Hylton, co. Stafford, yeoman, William Barnefeld of Newport, tanner, and John Burton of the same, labourer, with other riotous persons, 21st May in the 32nd year of your reign, in riotous manner broke and entered the house of your orator called *Coley Hall in Wylbrighton,* co. Stafford (*sic!*), and assaulted Alice, the wife of your orator, please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be

directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear before you, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] On the quindene of Easter.

The answer of Robert Barnefeld, etc.

They are not guilty of the aforesaid riotous breaking of the said house, nor of the battery of the said Alice. If they had been guilty of the said surmised offences, yet the King, by authority of his parliament, has freely pardoned all his subjects of this realm, of all riots and riotous offences committed against his peace before 1st July in this 32nd year of his reign. Wherefore they pray to be dismissed out of this court with their reasonable costs by them sustained in this behalf.

The replication of Thomas Turnour.

The said riotous persons took out of the said house certain goods and household utensils, of the value of £20. Notwithstanding the King has pardoned the said riotous demeanour, yet the said wrongful entry, and assault upon his wife are not pardoned. And the said defendants do not deny the same in their answer.

WORLEY *v.* HARDING, ETC.

Bundle 31, No. 91.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Mark Worley, bailiff of Lichfield, co. Stafford, 3rd [1540] April, in the 32nd year of your reign, being about to redress a misdemeanour committed by Thomas Lee to a victualler coming to Lichfield market, William Callawey of Lichfield in riotous manner, with Richard Hitton, capper, and other ill-disposed persons, with force and arms repaired to *Lichfield* townhall and called to the said bailiff to come forth if he dare. Further the said William Callawey and William Hardyng of Lichfield, 4th April in the said year, entered the house of Alice Turnour and assaulted your subject then being there, and intending to have murdered him they lay in wait for the said bailiff, and continued in this furious mind until the bailiffs of the said town repaired to the said place to see the peace kept. The night ensuing the said Callawey and Hardyng in riotous manner came to the house of the said bailiff and lay in wait to have slain him, and not regarding the punishment of the laws ordained for such evil doers, 24th April next repaired to Lichfield and there assembled with other riotous persons to the number of 100, and came to the house of your subject

and made great noise for one hour. Your subject sent two of his servants to the said riotous persons willing them to cease, and they said they would blow their horns still in spite of the bailiff. Thereupon the bailiff sent for the King's constables of the said town and went to the said riotous persons and willed them to keep the peace. And the said Callawey and Hardyng would have slain the said bailiff if Hector Bayne the said constable had not letted them and commanded them to leave their ill rule. And the said unruly persons, the 25th, 26th, and 27th April, and until the Thursday after Low Sunday, accustomably assembled in the night in such riotous manner as is abovesaid, for redress whereof the plaintiff and other honest persons of the said town complained to the King's justice at the sessions held at Stafford next after Easter, who awarded a warrant of good aberyng against them. The said Callawey and Hardyng perceiving the said process to be awarded against them withdrew from Lichfield. Further your plaintiff 10th June last, having your process to apprehend the said Hardyng, saw him go into the house of Agnes Lane, and followed after to have served the said process, whereupon the said Hardyng violently drew his sword and made assault on the said bailiff. May it therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to William Hardyng and William Callawey, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

MORE *v.* PARKES, BURTON, ETC.

Bundle 28, No. 84.

To the Kinge our most drad sovering Lord.

[1540] Your suppliant John More was seised of one messuage and 30 acres of land in *Aquila* (*Aqualate*), in the parish of *Fortune*, co. Stafford, and so being seised Michael Borton late of Bescot, co. Stafford, "neyler," William Parkes late of Rowley in co. Stafford, "neyler," Edmund Parkes late of Rowley, husbandman, and Humphrey Parkes late of Rowley, tailor, in riotous manner with force and arms, 12th October in the 32nd year of your reign, assembled at Acquila and entered the said messuage, etc., and wrongfully disseised your suppliant. In consideration whereof please your majesty to direct your writs of *subpena* to the said Michael Borton, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Humfrey Parkys.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. The said 12th October, the said Michael Burton required the said Humphrey at Bescote, co.

Stafford, to go with him to Aquyla, saying the plaintiff wrongfully kept him out of a messuage and other grounds in Aquyla. Whereupon he went with the said Michael to the said house where in peaceable manner they entered. Further, John More, the plaintiff, Thomas More, Edward Burgh, and Stephen More came riotously and assaulted the said Michael and Humphrey in the same house, wherefore they shut the door of the said house, for safeguard of their lives. The same John More, plaintiff, etc., broke a wall of the same house and drove forth the same Michael and Humfre and followed them, and by chance they met with William Parkys, and the constable of Aquila, and George Parkys, and they asked whither they intended to go, and they said to serve a warrant of the peace of the said Thomas More, and there the same constable would have served the same. And as soon as the same Thomas More perceived the said constable come towards him he fled as fast as he could, and so the said Michael, Humfrey, William, George, and the constable departed in peaceable wise. Without that they entered into the said mease, etc. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*] And forasmuch as the same Humfrey is ignorant in the title of the said mease, and because it only touches the same Michael Burton, the same Humfrey without him cannot answer the same. Wherefore he prays to be dismissed forth of this honourable court, with reasonable charges by him sustained by his wrongful vexation.

WOLSLEY *v.* STRETE, ETC.[1]

Bundle 31, No. 87.

To the Kynges Hyghnes.

Your orator John Wolsley of [Wolsley Bridge] co. Stafford, gentle- [1540]
man, was possessed of three cygnets which had their walk upon your highness' *water called the Trent*, co. Stafford. So it is that John Lancaster late of Lichfield, yeoman, Richard Hanson of the same, yeoman, with other riotous persons, by the procurement of Richard Strete, clerk, one of the Canons of Lichfield Cathedral Church, 8th November in the 31st year of your reign, at Wolsley aforesaid, near the High Bryge with force and arms took the said cygnets to the house of Richard Strete, and 20th January following took away the old swan, called the "Cobb Swan," an old "heyrar" of your orator, having his walk upon the said water, to the utter destruction and loss of the said "heyre of sawnays," to your orator of right belonging, to the damage of your orator to the yearly sum of 5 marks. In consideration whereof may it

[1] See Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 167.

please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Richard Strete, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

PETYTT *v.* JOBBER, ETC.

Bundle 21, No. 116.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1540-1[1]] Your orator John Petytt, of Chebsey, co. Stafford, gentleman. Whereas your orator, 8th May last, was at *Chebseye*, John Jobber, husbandman, William Palmer, husbandman, Robert Stedeman, Thomas Broune, Robert Palmer, Robert Bell, Robert Slyne, George Smyth, Thomas Lewes, John Palmer, James Slenne, John Stedman, Richard Cotton, James Stanley, of the same town, husbandmen, with force and arms made assault on your said orator. May it please you to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to them, to appear before you to answer to the premises.

Bundle 24, No. 190.

The answer of John Jobber, William Palmer, and Robert Stedeman to the bill of complaint of John Petyt.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. The town of Chebsey, wherein the pretended offences are supposed to be done, is held of the Honour of Tutbury, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, and all riots there done are determinable before the Chancellor of the said Duchy. There is a custom in the manor of Chebsey that if any beasts and cattle or other distress have been taken for any cause, that the same distress be impounded in the same manor, and if the takers thereof have been about to drive the same to any other place, the tenants thereof have been used to resist the same. Further the defendants say that the plaintiff John Hille of the Pype, John Petyt the younger and John Bradley arrayed in forcible manner, with other gentlemen of co. Stafford took and distrained 4 oxen of Robert Stedeman and would have driven them out of the lordship, whereupon the defendants resisted the same, which is the riot supposed by the plaintiff's bill.

STEDEMAN *v.* PETYE, ETC.

Bundle 33, No. 38.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1540-1] Your orator Robert Stedeman of Chebsay, co. Stafford, husbandman, was, 8th May last, in *Chebsay*. John Petye of the same, gentleman,

[1] See next suit for date.

John Hille of the Pype, John Petye the younger, and John Bradley of the same [Chebsay] husbandman, with divers others, with force and arms riotously made such a great assault on your orator that he was in great fear of his life. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said manifestors, commanding them to appear before you to make answer and abide such order as shall be thought by your grace and his Council to stand with right and conscience.

[*Endorsed.*] On the quindene of St. Michael.

The answer of John Petye, gentleman, and John Hyll.

As to any riot or assault, they are not guilty. If the said bill were true, as it is not, yet the King, by his free pardon granted by Act of Parliament in the 32nd year of his reign, has pardoned to all of his subjects, all offences and misdemeanours not excepted in the said pardon, committed before 1st July last. Since the time of their birth they were and yet are subjects of the said sovereign, and the supposed riot was not excepted in the said general pardon.

COWPER *v.* DELVES, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 336.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Robert Coper. Whereas Elizabeth, Countess of Bath, [1542] widow, and John Earl of Bath, for the good services of your said subject to them, granted the lands, etc., called *Bourchiers Wode*, *Wymyll Fylde*, *Ormounds Medowe* and *Iron Smethe* in the Manor of *Audeley*, co. Stafford, which John Rowley before held for term of his life for the yearly rent of 15*s.*, and your said suppliant was lawfully seised of the premises from the 10th November 33 Henry VIII. (1541) until 25th March then next following, when Harry Stapelton, Harry Taylor, Thomas Bursleym of Bursley, co. Stafford, yeoman, John Bursleym, Richard Bromley of Hely Irke (? Parke), yeoman, Thomas Alyn of the same, laborer, with others, by command of Sir Harry Delvys of Durryngton, co. Chester, knight, with force and arms entered Bourchiers Wode, and without title expulsed your said suppliant. And the said Sir Harry Delvys, not with this riot contented, obtained a warrant of the peace against your suppliant and his brothers William Coper and Thomas Coper, then occupiers of the same ground, and caused the said Harry Stapelton to obtain a *supplicavit* out of your Court of Chancery against the suppliant and his brethren, intending to compel your suppliant

contrary to his will, to let to him the premises by which writ the said William and Thomas were arrested and conveyed to Cheshire and imprisoned there. Please your highness to grant writs of *subpœna* to be directed to the said Sir Harry Delvys, knight, etc., to appear before you to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] On the morrow of the Purification.

The answer of Sir Harry Delvys, knight, and Richard Bromeley.

The bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any entry with force or any other offence against the King's peace they are not guilty. Further, a long time before 10th November mentioned in the bill, John Lord Fitzwaren was seised of $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the Manors of Betteley, co. Stafford, whereof Bourchiers Wode is parcel, and is let by copy of Court Roll for term of lives to any person that would have it, and Richard Sneyd then steward to Lord Fitzwaren granted the said wood to John Rowley, John Burseleym and Oliver Burseleym for term of their lives. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

[*Endorsed.*] The certificate of Richard Hassall and Robert Corbet for receiving the answer within named of Henry Delves, knight, and of Richard Bromley and of their attorneys as by writ of *dedimus potestatem* we were commanded, as appears below.

The answer of John Bursleym, Thomas Bursleym, Thomas Aleyn, defendants.

The said bill is untrue, etc. They say . . . [as above]. Further, that Lord Fitzwaren, by one Richard Snede steward of his Manor of Bettley, granted to John Bursleym one of the said defendants, Bourchiers Woodde being parcel of the same Manor, for term of life, and livery thereof was made accordingly to the same John. And the said Henry Stapleton, etc., 25th March by licence of the said John Bursleym peaceably entered the same wood. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The replication of Robart Cowper to the answer of John Bursleym, etc.

His said bill of complaint is certain, etc. And also he averreth that Bourchier's Wood mentioned in the said bill of complaint, and the Bourchiers Wood surmised in the answer of the defendants to be parcel of Betteley Manor is all one, and not divers, and is not parcel of the Manor of Betteley. [*Traverses the rest of the answer of the defendants.*]

SAVAGE *v.* BROKE.

Bundle 7, No. 81.

The answer of Henry Broke to the bill of complaint of Lawrence Savage.

The said bill is uncertain, untrue, etc. As to any riot, force and [1531[1]] arms, etc., he is not guilty. A long time before the said John Egerton named in the bill had anything in the pasture called Chetylton Park, William Chetwyn, esquire, and Robert Fulshehurste, clerk, were seised of the manor of Chetylton whereof the said pasture was and yet is parcel, to the use of Randull Egerton, esquire, and of the heirs males of his body. The said Randull had issue John Egerton, and died, by reason whereof the said manor descended to the said John and the heirs males of his body. The said John had issue Rauffe Egerton and died, after whose death the said manor descended to the said Rauffe, being of the age of 4 years or thereabouts; by force whereof, the said William Chetwyn and Robert Fulshehurste were seised of the premises to the use of the said Rauffe and of his heirs males, and they so seised until the said Robert died. The custody and ward of the said Rauffe, and also of his lands is and for a long time has been in the hands of the said Henry Broke, by lawful conveyance in the law, by reason whereof the said Henry Broke gave the said plaintiff warning to avoid the possession of the said park, which the plaintiff not only refused, but kept possession thereof with force, and would not pay the rent thereof for the time he occupied the same. By reason thereof the said Henry caused the cattle of the plaintiff to be lawfully distrained for the said rent for the same year and the year expired, and took the cattle of the plaintiff in the said park. Notwithstanding the plaintiff with his friends, with force and arms yet keeps the said park, and will not avoid the possession thereof. Without that that John Egerton was at any time seised of the said pasture or that he granted it to the plaintiff to have from the said feast of the Annunciation in the 19th year of the reign of King Henry VIII., for 12 years, or that the said John had any power to make any such lease to stand good after his death, or that if any such lease were so made it was not made void by the death of John, who died 3 years past, or that the plaintiff since the death of the said John[1] was lawfully possessed of and enjoyed the said pasture. And without that that the said Henry or any other of the defendants by his procurement, on Palm Sunday last, with force and arms and wrongfully entered into

[1] John Egerton d. 1528, see pedigree, p. 29. This fixes the date of this suit as 1531. See also p. 33 *ante*.

the said pasture and wrongfully took any beast of the plaintiff or drove them into the county of Chester so that the plaintiff could not have replevyn thereof.

WALKER *v.* MEVERELL.

Bundle 23, No. 46.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1542] Your subject Humphrey Walker, son and heir of John Walker, deceased. The said John Walker was seised of certain waste ground called *Ilome More*, *Dowffe Dale*, and *Bunsterre*, containing 400 acres in the parish and lordship of Ilome, co. Stafford, after whose death the premises descended to your subject, whose ancestors have been seised thereof time out of mind. So it is Francis Meverell, esquire,[1] George Meverell and Thomas Barlow, gentlemen, Antony Blackwall, Roger Mylnes, William W . . . the younger, William Baguley the younger, John Hare, Hilary Frodshame, William Holme, John Chalmer, Edward Bolland, Richard Smyth, Henry Smyth, Thomas [Tomlinson], Henry Howorth, William Wydder, John Sherard, Raffe Sherard the elder, Richard Eyton, . . . Sherrard, Boweman, Edward Hall and Richard Mor[te] and others, 8th May, 34 Henry VIII., with force and arms riotously entered the premises and drove out the cattle of your subject and some of his tenants and killed some of them. Also about September then next ensuing the said Francis Meverell, etc., entered the pasture of your orator called Bychenne Hill, containing 100 acres, and trod down the corn growing there and broke the hedges inclosing the same. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Francis, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Francis Meverell, Edward Bowland, John Wyddyur and Richard Morte.

Of any riot, etc., they are not guilty, except for a little time they were following their hawkes to . . . game. Further, John Wyddur of Ilom, co. Stafford, gent., held one capital messuage in Ilom with HolleCroft and Dower Croft, Orchard Croft, Neyther Crofte and Hall House with a croft called Newbrige Croft lying near Bonster (*cf.* Bunster Crag), and all arable land in the common fields of Ilom, and of half the waste ground called Ilom More, Dowffe Dale and Bunsterre and demised the same to the said Francis Meverell for a term of years, by

[1] Fras. Meverell, of Throwley, M.P., succeeded his father George in 1527, and died 1565.

virtue whereof the said Francis entered into the said lands, and, because the plaintiff overcharged the said common with his beasts, contrary to award made by Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, then the King's serjeant-at-lawe, drove out the beasts then being there, for a good quietness of the inhabitants of Ilom, by their common assent. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Roger Mylles, William Wether the elder, etc. [Say as above.]

The replication of Humphrey Walker to the answer of Francis Meverell, etc.

The said bill is true, etc. Without that that John Wydder demised the said lands to Francis Meverell, or any award was made by Sir Anthony Fitzherbert. [*Traverses the rest of their answer.*]

Interrogatories on the part of Humphrey Walker against Roger Mylles, etc.

1. Do you know John Walker was seised of Ilome More, etc., containing 400 acres, and whether the said Humphrey enjoyed the same after the death of John Walker and for how long?

2. Did Francis Meverell and others, 8 May, 34 Henry VIII., enter the said ground and drive away the cattle of the said Humphrey or his tenants there, and did any die thereby?

3. Did the said Francis Meverell, etc., about St. Matthew after, enter Bychen Hill, and was it then sown with grain and did they tread it down?

4. What was the value of the corn so trodden down?

5. Did John Wydder demise any part of the premises to any person, and to whom? Might he lawfully make any grant or lease of the same?

Richard Bowman of Alsefeld (Alstonefield), co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 80 years, says he was tenant of Humphrey about 10 years last past, and had common of pasture for his cattle in Dovedale, Ilom More and Bunster, without any rating, paying to him yearly as rent, 23*s.* 8*d.* Further, John Walker, father of Humphrey, had common of pasture for his tenants there.

William Blore of Ilom, husbandman, aged 40 years, says that he saw Francis Meverell, etc., on Ilom More at the time mentioned in the bill, and they drove out therefrom 60 of his sheep.

John Olyver of Yeveley, husbandman, aged 54 years, says he was tenant to Humphrey of 8 acres of land and a house in Ilom and had common for his cattle, in Dovedale for 22 years and Humphrey has a close in Ilom of the yearly rent of 33*s.* 4*d.*

Thomas Grenehagh, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged 66 years, says he was servant to John Walker, for 6 years, and to Humphrey 26 years, and they had all that time common for their cattle in Dovedale, etc.

James Cantrell of Hertyngton, co. Derby, husbandman, aged 22 years, late servant to Humphrey, taking no wages, says he saw Meverell and one Bowring, and one Carttage driving cattle from Ilom More to the "pynfolde" of Ilom, and he saw them where oats were sown in Bechenhill, hunting and hawking.

Richard Bayle of Stanford, co. Stafford, yeoman, aged 60 years, says as Thomas Grenehagh said, but was not servant to John or Humphrey.

Robert Jackson of Stanford, husbandman, aged 60 years, says as Richard Bayle has said.

Depositions on the part of Francis Meverell, etc.

John Bowryng of Ilom, husbandman, aged 54 years, says Francis Meverell, Cartlage, etc., drove the cattle from Ilom More to Ilom fold in peaceable manner, by the consent of the tenants of Ilom.

Rauffe Cartlage of Ilom, husbandman, aged 34 years, says as John Bowryng said.

Upon interrogatories ministered for Humphrey Walker, 21 *April,* 34 *Henry VIII.*

Francis Meverell of Throwley, co. Stafford, gentleman, says he knows Humphrey Walker's cattle depastured on Ilom More, etc., but not the cattle of John Walker. He says that John Wydder is taken for owner of the moiety of the premises, as son and heir of Raufe Wydder, and that he let to this deponent the said premises for 10 years upon the yearly rent of £6 13*s.* 4*d.* He confesses that he, accompanied with others having staves, entered the moiety of the premises, and drove the tenant's cattle there, but they meddled not with the said Walker's cattle but suffered them to stay, and that they entered on Bechen Hill and trod down the oats growing there while hawking.

Richard Eton of Ilom, labourer, says he knows that Humphrey Walker occupied the said premises 12 years, by order of Justice Fitzherbert, but no other title to his knowledge. He knows that John Wydder let certain of the said moor to divers inhabitants of Stansope before the lease thereof to Francis Meverell.

Richard Morte, servant to Francis Meverell, says [*as Francis Meverell*].

William Holme, tenant of Francis Meverell, examined 17 November, 35 Henry VIII., says [*as above*].

Roger Milles of Ilome, shepherd, servant to Francis Meverell, says [*as above*].

Thomas Tomkinson, servant and tenant of Francis Meverell, Richard Smith, tenant, William Wider the elder, William Bageley, servant of Francis Meverell, John Wider of Ilom, husbandman, say [*as above*].

Bundle 23, No. 19.

Interrogatories for the examination of Frauncis Meverell, Edward Bowland and Richard Morte.

1. How long has the deponent known Ilom More, Dowffe Dale and Bunsterr, in the parish of Ilom, co. Stafford?

2. Whether he knows the cattle of Humphrey Walker and his tenants to feed upon the premises?

3. How long and what times have the cattle aforesaid fed thereon?

4. Whether the cattle of John Walker, father of Humphrey, fed in like manner?

5. Whether he was interrupted in the same by John Wydder of Ilom named in the answer of the deponent, or any of his ancestors?

6. How many years did John Walker and his tenants depasture there?

7. How many years since the decease of John Walker have the said Humphrey and his tenants had their cattle grazing there?

8. Was John Wydder ever taken for owner of Ilom More, Dowffe-dale and Bunsterr before 34 Henry VIII.? Did he ever take the profits thereof, and by what conveyance was he seised?

9. Did he lease the same lands to Francis Meverell, and for how long and for what rent?

10. What is the yearly value of Dowffe Dale, Ilome More and Bunsterr?

11. Whether John Wydder and his ancestors used to let to farm all their lands in Ilom parish? Whether he made any lease of the said lands before 34 Henry VIII?

12. At the time of the making of the lease to Francis Meverell, did John Wydder agree to let to him the soil of Ilom More, Dowffe Dale and Bunsterr?

13. Did Francis and any others enter into any of the said lands, 8 May, 34 Henry VIII., and who accompanied him?

14. What weapons did they carry, how long did they stay, and did they drive away the cattle of Humphrey Walker?

15. Did any of the cattle die by reason of the said driving, and were any killed, and by whose command was it done?

16. Whether Francis Meverell, George Meverell, Anthony Blakewall, Richard Morte, William Wydder the younger, William Baguley the

younger, and John Wydder, St. Matthew's Day, 34 Henry VIII., enter the close of Humphrey Walker called Bychenne, in Ilom, then sown with oats and other grains, and did they tread down the said grain and hedges of the said Humphrey?

17. Did any beasts escape into the said ground by reason of the treading down of the hedges, and tread down and consume the oats growing there?

18. What was the value of the oats so destroyed by Francis Meverall and others, and the said cattle?

WARDE *v.* YOXALL, ETC.

Bundle 23, No. 47.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

[1543] Whereas your subject Stephen Warde, late of Yoxall, co. Stafford, gentleman, was seised of and in one capital messuage called *Hywall Hille* in co. Stafford, William Yoxsall of London, bocher [*sic*], Thomas Crosse of Attyswall, Thomas Crosse his son, John Stele of Abbots Bromley, co. Stafford, labourer, and William Herpey and others, 6th March, 34 Henry VIII., assembled with force and arms at Hywall Hille, and with weapons defensive and invasive made assault on Richard Wood, tenant to your subject, and forcibly entered the said capital messuage and beat the said Richard Woode, and expulsed him, his wife and children of the possession of the same. Please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to William Yoxsall, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of John Stele.

The said bill is untrue, etc. As to any unlawful assembly and riot and assault he is not guilty. He says that at the time of the said entry supposed, William Yoxsall of London, "bocher," by good title was seised in the said messuage, and this defendant, as his servant and by his command, in peaceable manner entered the premises as was lawful. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

MARTYN *v.* NOWELL.

Bundle 29, No. 181.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1544] Your orator William Martyn. Whereas your Majesty commanded that there should be set up in every church, in your realm of England, one Holy Bible in English, containing the New Testament and the Old,

before a certain day in the same injunction declared, and that the same should be set in the most convenient place of the church where the people might most reasonably resort to the same, and that if any church lacked a Bible then the parson or vicar and the parishoners should forfeit to your highness 40*s.* for every month they should lack a Bible. So it is that John Nowell, parson of *Swinnerton*, co. Stafford, clerk, of his perverse mind has above half a year past taken the Bible out of the parish church of Swinnerton, and conveyed the same where no man can tell, and says it is not meet that the Bible should remain in the church, and has kept it out of the church 6 months at least, by reason whereof he has forfeited to your highness and your beseecher £12. And whereas the parsonage of Swynnerton has been and is of the clear yearly value of 40 marks, and yet the said Nowell has rated the same parsonage for the payment of your tenths at £10 only, and albeit your subject and divers other men of the same parish have required the said Nowell to lay the Bible in the place ordained for the same in the church, which he at all times utterly refuses. It may please your Majesty to call the said John Nowell by *subpena* or otherwise before you, to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] Brought in on Monday, 23rd June.

The answer of John Nowell, clerk.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. He further says he provide d aBible before the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), in the 33rd year of your reign, according to the royal charge, 6 May, 33 Henry VIII., which now and since has been in the parish church of Swynnerton. Whereas it is set forth by the authority of his Majesty that the charges of the said Bible be borne between the parson and parishoners of every parish, notwithstanding, the plaintiff, one of the parishoners of the said parish, not only refuses to pay his portion towards the said charges, but informs the parishoners of the same that the said defendant being parson, ought to buy the said Bible at his charges, whereby he bears as yet the whole charge of the said Bible, to his loss and hinderance. Upon his oath he truly presented the parsonage of Swynnerton, for the payment of the tenths to the King, to be of the clear yearly value of £10 5*s.*, as the said parsonage has been presented time out of mind, which is as much as the said parsonage is worth, all charges deducted, one year with another, as this defendant is ready to prove. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

[*Endorsed.*] Brought in by Thos. Morley from Mr. Greswike, 25th October in the 36th year.

MARTIN *v.* BARDMORE.

Bundle 28, No. 20.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1544] Your orator Wyllyam Martyn of Beche, co. Stafford, yeoman, for many years past and yet is possessed of a parcel of land called Longe Crofte, and another parcel of ground in a field called New Leasue in the parish of *Beche*, of the demise of Thomas Swynnerton, esquire, and [ ] his wife, deceased, for certain years yet to come, and by the space of five years last past took the yearly issues of the same, which are of the yearly value of 26*s.* 8*d.*, above all charges and reprises. So it is that about one year last past, Robert Beardmore and others with force and arms entered into the said two parcels of ground and wrongfully kept and yet keep the possession of the same. The said Robert Beardmore further of his corrupt mind says that if your orator once come on the same ground or put any beasts upon the same, he shall repent the same, which is against all reason and good conscience. In consideration whereof it may please your Majesty to command the said Robert Beardmore by *subpena* or otherwise to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of Robert Berdemore.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. As to the said riot or forcible entry, he is not guilty. If it were true, as it is not, that the said defendant had committed the said misdemeanours, that then the same are clearly pardoned by the King's pardon granted to all his subjects, in the 35th year of his reign, insomuch as the plaintiff has surmised the same riot, forcible entry, etc., to be committed by the defendant before the 13th January last.

The replication of William Martyn.

The said bill of complaint and the matter therein comprised, is true. Further, the said answer is untrue, insufficient, etc. Prays that the defendant by the order of this court be compelled to suffer the plaintiff to enjoy the said two parcels of ground, and to make amends for such injuries and wrongs as the plaintiff has sustained. Without that that any misdemeanours committed by the defendant against the King's peace are clearly pardoned by the King's pardon granted to all his subjects by his last Parliament at Westminster, as is alleged.

JOHN LEWSON *v.* BARNLEY, ETC.

Bundle 21, No. 217.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1544] Your orator John Leweson of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford. Whereas

William Barnley, son and heir of John Barnley,[1] exhibited a bill of complaint in your Court of Chancery against your orator, supposing by the same that, whereas John Barnley was seised of 100 acres of land in Over Pen and Nether Pen, co. Stafford, after his death they descended to him, as son and heir, and alleged that the deeds, etc., concerning the premises came to the hands of your orator, who thereby conveyed divers estates of the same to his own use, without title, and obtained your writ of *subpena* directed to your orator to appear to answer to the premises in your Court of Chancery, where this matter yet dependeth. Your orator thus being seised, the said William Barnley, Richard Wollaston, and John Howlett, the Tuesday next after the Epiphany, 35 Henry VIII., upon a false information to a jury then sworn, caused John Rabon, tenant of your orator, William Rowley and Nicholas Parker falsely to be indited for that they had forcibly entered the premises, and a writ of restitution was awarded, to put William Barneley in possession against all right, by force whereof your orator and his tenants were moved from the possession of the said tenements. And afterwards the said William Barneley having got possession of the premises, he, the said William, Richard Wallaston, William Wollaston and Stephen Howlett kept the same, whereupon your orator complained to Homffrey Wellys and Thomas Gyfford, esquires, justices of the peace, in co. Stafford, who thereupon went to the said messuage to see how the same was kept, and they found it kept with great force. Notwithstanding, the said justices, according to their duty, removed the same force and sent the keepers of the same to Stafford gaol. Notwithstanding the said persons were bailed out or ever they came to the prison, and afterwards Richard Wollaston, Elice Cartwright, John Luffyngham, Robert Bate, William Bache, Richard Gascoygn and others in riotous manner, 10 the February, 35 Henry VIII., entered the same, whereupon at the sessions held at Stafford the Tuesday next after Low Sunday last the said riotous persons were justly indited, and the title of your orator openly shown before your justices of co. Stafford, who granted your orator a writ of restitution, which could not be served because the persons so indited had got from some other justices of the peace of your said county, a *supercedeas*; which Richard Wollaston at the same time spake these words, "We will spend £200, but we will have our purpose." And further the said William Barneley was indited at the same time of forcible entry into the same premises, 25th January last. And further to trouble your orator the said Barneley procured a writ of good "abeyryng" against 6 or 7 of your orator's tenants, to

[1] See p. 128.

their great trouble and hurt. Please your Majesty to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Barneley, Richard Wollaston, etc., to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of William Barneley.

The bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. As for any riot, etc., he is not guilty. Further he says his father, John Barneley, died seised of the said "mease" and 100 acres of land in Overpen and Netherpen, which descended to him as son and heir, by reason whereof he was seised until of late certain deeds, etc., came to the hands of the plaintiff, a great buyer of titles,[1] who bought a feigned title of one Stephen Howlatt, in the premises, without any title thereto but that he married this defendant's mother, who had nothing in the same except as guardian to her said son, and entered the same and conveyed certain estate of the same to his own use. Which matter depends yet undetermined in the Court of Chancery. Further, at a sessions held at Stafford before the justices of the peace of the said county, John Rabon, Wylliam Rowley and Nicholas Parker were indited for forcible entry of the premises, whereupon a writ of restitution was awarded to the sheriff of the county to put the defendant in peaceful possession of the same, and the plaintiff and his accomplices were lawfully amoved and this defendant entered and peaceably enjoyed the same. Which being seen, the said John Leveson caused two light persons to enter forcibly the said premises, against whom this defendant kept possession of the premises, which is all the riot supposed in the said bill. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of William Wollaston. [*Says as above.*]

Also that William Barneley was lawfully seised of the said premises and about 15th January last demised half of the same to the said defendant, and to Richard his father, paying therefor yearly 26*s.* 8*d.*, for a certain term of years. And further the said John Leveson of his extort and power, 7th May last, wrongfully entered into the said premises and expulsed the said defendant and his father, and will in no wise suffer them to have the same nor any part thereof, wherefore they have more cause to complain than the plaintiff has. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Richard Wollaston.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. [*Says as above.*]

[1] This throws some light on these numerous Leveson actions.

ROBINSON *v.* HOLLAND.

Bundle 25, No. 62.

The answer of Robert Holland and Richard Wakeley, to the bill of complaint of William Robynson, esquire.

At the time of the supposed riot they were servants of Walter Horton, and passed through the town of *Tamworth*, attending upon him. Neither they nor their master bore any grudge against the said William Robinson[1] the plaintiff, but upon the day that the plaintiff surmised the said assault, the plaintiff with eleven of his servants assaulted their master and the defendants; the said Robert Holland was sore wounded. They do not know whether the plaintiff or his servants were hurt at the same time, but such hurt came to them by their own assault and seeking, and their master has more cause to complain against the said Robynson than the said William Robinson or his company has done. Without that that their master knew of the journey of the plaintiff, or that they were assembled in any riotous manner, or that their swords were drawn before the assault attempted by the plaintiff and his company. [*c.* 1545]

[WALTER BLOUNT *v.* GEORGE DRAYCOT.[2]]

Bundle 24, No. 93.

Interrogatories to be ministered to George Dragotte and John Trevin.

1. Who has been tenant and occupier of the said parcel of ground (*i.e. Blount's Hall*)? [*c.* 1545[3]]

2. If one Barlowe was ever tenant, in the life of John Kynnersley or since?

3. If he paid his rent to John Kynnersley, and since his death to his wife, or no?

4. If the hedges were standing when this deponent came to fetch his hay there, and who pulled them down?

5. Who came with the deponent and what weapons had they?

6. If any servants of Blont were there the same time, and were struck, and by whom?

[1] Wm. Robinson succeeded his father, George Robinson, in Drayton Bassett, *c.* 1540.

[2] Sir Philip Draycot of Draycot, claimed the land as custodian of Thos. Kynnersley, grandson and heir of Thos. Kynnersley of Loxley who had died in 1540. In the Inq. p.m. on his death, Thomas the grandson is given as aged 12. John Kynnersley was son and heir presumptive of his father Thomas, but died *v.p.* George, a son of Sir Philip, is named in his will as residuary legatee in 1558.

[3] Date uncertain. Other parts of this suit are to be found in Vol. X, i, N.S., p. 131, and Vol., 1910, p. 78–9.

TUNKES *v.* BYCKFORD.

Bundle 26, No. 62.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[*c.* 1545] Your orator Humphrey Tunkes of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, mercer, upon the Thursday next before the feast of St. Chad last past, was riding in the highway at *Handysworth*, co. Stafford, towards Coventrie with a "male" of stuff behind him. So it is that John Byckeford ot Brewod,[1] co. Stafford, yeoman, with other riotous persons, with force and arms made assault upon your orator, and would have murdered him, saving that Roger Alyn of Hylton, co. Stafford, yeoman, laid hold of the bridle of the horse of the said Byckeford, and required him to keep the King's peace. Upon which misdemeanours your orator at a sessions of the peace held at Stafford put a bill of indictment against the said Byckford, but the said Byckford has so many friends in that country that your said orator can have no remedy. Wherefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Byckeford, commanding him to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of John Bykford.

The said bill of complaint is uncertain, etc. As to any riot, force, etc., he is not guilty. Without that that anything in the said bill contained and not before confessed or traversed, is true.

MYLWARD *v.* LYSLE.[2]

Bundle 25, No. 89.

To the right honourable the Lords of the King's Council.

[1546] Your orator Thomas Mylward lately exhibited a bill of complaint in your High Court of Star Chamber against Philip White, and others, supposing by the same that your orator was seised of one messuage, 40 acres of land and 30 acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture, in Warley, in the counties of Worcester, Stafford, and Salop, until Philip Whyte and others to the number of 14 persons expelled your orator from the same. And the said White appeared and made answer, whereupon divers witnesses upon both parties were examined, and so continued to Easter last, when it was decreed that the said White should occupy the said messuage, etc., until the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last, and

[1] John Bickeford occurs at Brewood in the Muster Roll of 1539, and the administration of the goods of Humphrey Tunkes of Penn was granted at Lichfield in 1576. (W. F. C.)

[2] See "Milward *v.* White," 1543, Vol., 1910, p. 52.

then suffer your suppliant to peaceably enter into the same. So it is, that notwithstanding the said order, the said White and his confederates continued possession of the said messuage, etc., in riotous manner as they did before, so that your beseecher was driven to make further suit to your lordship, who awarded out a writ of injunction to White and the other evil-doers to suffer your orator to have the premises, which defendants said they were content to suffer him to enter. Whereupon your suppliant sent Edward Mylward his son to make the hedges of the said ground. Then came Philip Dytheryche with force, with the said White, and made affray upon the said Edward, and further the said Dytheryche the roth of this present month of November, with George Tokey, gentleman, and John Hypkys, came to your suppliant's house at Herborn, a mile distant from Warley, and broke down a door, and with force and arms made assault upon the said Edward Mylward, threshing in his father's barn, and beat and wounded him. And forasmuch as the said Detherech, Tokey and Hypkys are servants of Sir John Dudley, knight, Lord Viscount Lysley,[1] and keep the said lands, etc., and threaten to kill your orator because he entered into the same according to the decree. Please your lordship that the said Lord Lysley may cause the said Dederiche, Toke and Hypkys to appear before you to answer to their said misdemeanours.

The answer of George Tokye, gentleman, John Hipkis and Philip Dederyche.

As to all the wrongful entries, etc., supposed in the said bill, they are not guilty. The said mease, etc., are copyhold lands held of John, Viscount Lisle, as of his manor of Hales Owen, co. Salop, and are demised by copy of court roll according to the custom of the said manor; and the said plaintiff has no title in the same, but only be a decree made in this court against Philip Whyte, late occupier of the premises, and yet in the same decree a proviso was had that nothing in it should be hurtful to the said Viscount Lisle concerning his title in the same premises. Notwithstanding the said Thomas Milward through the support of William Wyllyngton, esquire, proposes to vex the officers and tenants of the said Viscount Lisle that none of them will meddle with the same, which will be prejudicial to the title of the said Viscount Lisle. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*] Truth is that the said Viscount for such service as Philip Dederyche did in Scotland and France,[1] demised the

[1] Sir John Dudley, created Viscount Lisle 1542; in Scotland 1542; in France 1544–6; created Earl of Warwick February 1546–7; Duke of Northumberland 1551; beheaded 1553. It will be seen that a copyhold title was even so late as 1546 of doubtful authority against the lord of the manor.

said premises to the said Philip for the term of his life, to enter into the same when the said Philip White by the said decree should avoid from the place, by force whereof he peaceably entered the same and was thereof quietly possessed until October last, when the said Mylward and William Jakson by command of Thomas Mylward riotously assaulted the said Philip, and took his sword. The said unruly persons at the next sessions of the peace in co. Salop were indicted of the same riot, and notwithstanding the said Philip has often required the said Edward Mylward to deliver the said sword, that he refuses to do.

The said George Toky is bailiff to the said Viscount Lisle of his manor of Hales Owen, whereof the house where the plaintiff dwells is parcel, and the said John Hipkis is deputy bailiff under George Toky, and they went to Mylward's house with the constable to put the said Edward Milward and other misruled persons aforesaid under surety to keep better rule within the said lordship.

VERNON *v.* SMYTHE, ETC.

Bundle 32, No. 21.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[*temp.* H. VIII.] Your suppliant Thomas Vernoon,[1] in right of Elizabeth his wife, was and is seised of 7 meases, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 200 acres of moor, etc., in *Watersfall*, co. Stafford, and for 3 years last past has permitted Edmond Carlile to occupy one tenement 21 acres of land and a pasture, parcel of the premises, from year to year at will, paying therefor yearly 21*s.* 3*d.*, and has permitted Hugh Cowper by like space to occupy Gylcrofte pasture, parcel of the premises, paying therefor yearly 6*s.* 4*d.* Forasmuch as the said Edmund Carlile and Hugh Cowper did not pay their farms at the feast of St. Martin in Winter last past, your orator by reason that the said lands before rehearsed, before this time, were let together, distrained the sheep of the said Edmond, upon the said tenement, etc., 27th November last, and impounded them, whereupon the said Edmund Carlile, Thomas Smythe, William Stubbes and Robert Course in riotous manner assembled at Watersfall, and made assault upon your orator, and constrained him for fear of his life to deliver again the said distress. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Smythe commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] The quindene of Easter.

[1] See Inq. p.m. on Thos. Vernon in 1556.

BRIGGS *v.* STAMFORD.

Bundle 26, No. 335.

The replication of Oliver Brigges, plaintiff, to the several answers of William Stamford,[1] *Humphrey Comberford,*[1] *and William Blackborne, defendants.*

Avers his bill of complaint to be true. Without that William Stamford repaired to the plaintiff's house to see his mother, or that he peaceably departed again. And without that he and Humphrey Comberford and the other defendants, with no others, peaceably entered the capital messuage in *Rowley near the town of Stafford*, finding only a maid of Thomas Woodall there, or that being in peaceful possession of the same called Thomas Woodall and Edward Lees and Humphrey Comberford to bear witness thereto, and that he obtained the same as inheritance descended to him from Edward Stamford his late father, deceased. Or that William Stamford peaceably departed in three or four hours. And without that that William Blackborne, 18th April, aforesaid, being in bed in his house in Stafford, was sent for by William Stamford to come to his house at Rowley with pen, ink and paper, or that he repaired thither, without any weapon, or that he found there William Stamford and others and two of the daughters of Thomas Woodall, all in peace. It appears by the answer of the same defendant that he was sent for to make a forcible entry into this plaintiff's house, and that he and others were in this plaintiff's house at Rowley for a great space, to aid William Stamford in committing his riots, in the bill specified. Therefore this plaintiff prays judgment thereof in this court. ? [*temp.* H. VIII.]

FOSTER *v.* FOSTER, CROSSE, PYDDER, ETC.

Bundle 24, No. 64.

The rejoinder of Elizabeth Foster, Edward Taylor, James Crosse, Thomas Pydder, Henry Pydder, William Willmote, William Taylor, Thomas Harrys, Richard Cordell, and John Weste, to the replication of Thomas Foster.

The defendants say that the answer is certain and sufficient in the law to be replied to, and the said replication is uncertain, etc. Without that that Thomas Foster has performed the covenant and agreements [*temp.* H. VIII.]

[1] William Stamford, only son of Edward Stamford of Rowley, occurs in 1583. His wife, Elizabeth, had an uncle, brother, and cousin called Humphrey Comberford. (W. F. C.). Humph. Comberford probably succeeded Thos. C. in 1540 and probably died 1555.

contained in the indentures mentioned on the part of the plaintiff, or that Edward Taylor and James Crosse sued one *scire facias* out of malice against the plaintiff, but they sued execution upon the said recognisance upon just cause, for that the plaintiff did not perform the agreements mentioned. Or that the plaintiff was sick of the great and universal plague called the "Swete," in co. Stafford, or that it was excepted out of the decree of the late Lord Chancellor that the plaintiff should restore to the said Edward and James, to the use of Elizabeth, such household goods as were in the *White House of Saltford*. All which matters these defendants are ready to prove.

BRADELEY *v.* WHYTE.

Bundle 25, No. 226.

The answer to the bill of Isabel White, widow,[1] *late the wife of William White.*

[*temp.* H. VIII.] Whereas the said William held a messuage in *Clente* after the custom of the manor aforesaid and whereas it was surmised by Richard Sparry, that the said William so being seised for 16 years past should surrender the same into his hands and to Brian Knight, to the use of Isabel his wife for her life, and after her decease to the use of John White, younger son of the said William, and his issue. And the said Brian died, and the said William White made a new surrender of all the premises to Thomas Hylle and Thomas Pachett (Paget), and the said Richard Sparry was privy thereto, and would not be known that he had any such surrender, and thus the said William continued in possession for 14 years, and every year during that space of time the said Richard Sparry was twice sworn at the law-days that if any such surrender were made it should be brought into court. And so now of late, for malice the said Richard Sparry has to Thomas White, son and heir unto William, he in the life of William surrendered all the premises in the court to the use of the said Isabel, and the said William offered to swear that he never surrendered the premises into the hands of the said Attorneys but for one year and one day, and thereupon he purchased a quest of office[2] and died before the quest passed, after whose death the lady was answered of her heriot, and the said Thomas as son and heir paid his relief and was received tenant to all the premises. Without that that Isabel paid any fine to the lady or was tenant after the custom. And thereupon the said Thomas purchased a quest of office, and 12 men

[1] A John White appears at Clent in the Muster Roll of 1539.

[2] *i.e.*, paid to have a jury.

found that the surrender so made by the said Richard Sparry was void. So the said Thomas surrendered the premises up into the hands of the lady to the use of divers persons, which surrender was admitted to be good, and so "everyche" of them have taken their lands so surrendered, and paid their fines and be the returned tenants, and sworn. Without that that any of them denied the said widow her dowry, but have offered her her dowry without cost, and she had her choice, that was the third part of the mease and all the lands that were her husband's.

MEYRE *v.* MAYRE.

Bundle 27, No. 107.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Henry Meyre of Tetburye, co. Glouc., was seised by course of inheritance, at will of the lord after the custom of the manor, of one messuage and 60 acres of land, etc., in the manor of *Newcastell under Lyne*, co. Staff., and being in great poverty, for £6 paid to him by William Boller, of Hanchirche, mortgaged the same to the same William, to have until such time as your orator satisfied the said sum of £6 to the said Boller. And the said Boller bound himself in the sum of £40 that immediately the said repayment was made, your orator should re-enter the said premises. Afterwards your orator paid the said sum, after which, before any lawful entry into the premises made by your orator, William Boller died. So it is the said obligation of £40 and other writings have come to the hands of Thomas Mayre, chaplain, Thomas Doksey, John Badeley, Thomas Burslem, John Turnour, Stephen Hylle, Robert Sutton, and Roger Turnour, who have entered into the premises and yet wrongfully keep out your orator, and refuse to permit your orator to have the same. And forasmuch the above named persons are men of great strength in co. Stafford, and your orator a stranger, dwelling in co. Gloucester, he is without remedy by the due course of the common law. Wherefore please your highness to award your letters of commandment and privy seal to be directed to the said Sir Thomas Mayre, and the others, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises. [*temp.* H. VIII.]

STAFFORD *v.* MARLOWE.

Bundle 28, No. 56.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your suppliant Humphrey Stafford,[1] gentleman, and his ancestors time without mind have been peacefully seised of an acre of land in [*temp.* H. VIII.]

[1] Shaw's account of Freeford has no mention of a Stafford holding.

Freyford, co. Stafford, until such time as Robert Marlowe of Lychefeld, co. Stafford, the elder, yeoman, Robert Marlowe of Lichefeld, the younger, yeoman, John Broun of Lichefeld, husbandman, with other misruled persons, by command of Sir John Colmore and Sir Thomas Kirke, clerks, 13th August last, with force and arms, at Swynfyn, co. Stafford, assembled, and made assault on your suppliant, riding by his wain loaded with corn, and the said Robert Marlowe the elder then and there shot eleven arrows at your orator, and hurt three of the oxen and broke their harness. Also the same Robert shot two arrows at Thomas Wylgose servant to your orator, and cut the left ear of a white mare whereupon your suppliant rode that day. Wherefore please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

HANLEY *v.* HUNTBACHE.

Bundle 26, No. 474.

The rejoinder of John Huntbache and Edmund Lidgeley to the replication of Thomas Hanley, plaintiff.

[*temp.* H. VIII.]

Everything in their answer they maintain to be and not uncertain, etc., in the law, to be replied to. Without that they deposed that the high fields, parcel of the said . . . be seen by any standing in *High Offley* churchyard, although they think the same cannot be, for that the plaintiff has done what . . . of the said churchyard by hanging sheets on the tops of the hedges and bushes in the same . . . . might be . . . the ground and soil thereof of none to the knowledge of these defendants. Or that the said Francis . . . of his being there at the said merriment was personally in the said . . . or there did . . . lease the premises to the plaintiff. On that the said John Huntbache . . . wickedly deposed it was wilful perjury to say that during the said three days that Francis Roos[1] was at the said merriment, that John Huntbache was never as long out of his company as that the said Francis without his knowledge should have time to go to the said churchyard, as is alleged.

[*In bad condition.*]

BAILEY *v.* LLOYD.

Bundle 24, No. 231.

The answer of [*John Lloyd*].

[*temp.* H. VIII.]

The said John says the said bill is untrue, etc. As to any riot or

[1] Francis Roos must be he who is mentioned several times in the 1583 Visitation. He married a daughter of Sir Thomas Skrimshaw of Norbury.

misdemeaning supposed in the said bill, he is not guilty. One Richard Sporyer of Walsale was seised of a mese and two cottages in *Liechefeld*, with other lands in co. Stafford, and let the same to John Baily, grandfather to the said Nicholas, for term of his life, the remainder thereof after his decease to Roger Bailly, son and heir of the said John, and to Maud his wife, and their issue, and for lack of such issue, to divers other sons of the said John Bailly, in tail. After the death of the said John Bailly, the said Roger and Maud his wife were seised of the said premises, and after had issue the said Nicholas. And the said Roger died, after whose death the said Maud held her interest by reason of the survivor, by force of the gift aforesaid. And the said John Lloyd who has married a daughter of Maud, at the desire of Maud, went to Lichfield to receive the rent of the said mese, etc., and there, by command of the said Maud he sold a broken ladder which lay in a house, not fixed to the ground, and delivered the money to the said Maud. Without that that Roger Bailly died seised of the said mese, etc., and that they descended to the said Nicholas, or that John Lloyd riotously put out the said Nicholas from the same, or wrongfully keeps the said mese, etc., or that he menaced to murder the said Nicholas.

EDWARD VI., 1547–1553.

WOLSENAM *v.* SNEYDE, ETC.

Bundle 4, No. 21.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

Your subject Thomas Wulsename. Whereas Richard Bedulphe, [1547] esquire, about 3 or 4 years last past was possessed of a messuage and 100 acres of land, meadow, pasture and wood, in Horton, co. Staff., for a term of years yet enduring, and to farm let the same to your subject for 4 years then next ensuing paying therefor yearly to the said Richard 4 marks. Now of late, the 16th September last John Wedgewood of Horton, yeoman, John Malkyn of Endon, yeoman, John Malkyn of Ladie More, yeoman, Ralph Harryson, John Burton and John Nedeham and other riotous persons, by the procurement of William Snede, esquire, and of the said John Wedgewood, with force and arms assembled at Horton and assaulted your orator, his wife and children and servants, and broke the same house, and threw down the doors and took away 4 yards of white woollen cloth price 8*s.*, and 2 yards of linen price 4*s.*, one mare price 26*s.* 8*d.*, and, in the pasture of your orator belonging to the said mease, took away 4 oxen price £5, 9 cows price £5 and 2 young calves price

14*s.*, and 6 other calves price 30*s.*, a gelding and 3 other mares, price £4, and drove them away to a place to your subject unknown. Further they took your orator and carried him violently to the house of the said Snede called Bradwall, 6 miles distant from your subject's house, and there kept him prisoner for 3 days and 3 nights, and afterwards sent him to the gaol at Stafford without cause, where he remained 2 days. After, by mediation of his friends he was let to bail till the next general gaol delivery, at his great costs. After, the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last, the said William Snede and John Wedgewood and one Ralph Rydyerd, gentleman, William Smythe, Hugh Morrey and the aforesaid riotous persons, confederated together and at a sessions held at Stafford caused your beseecher to be indicted of felony, affirming he had stolen a mare of the goods of Christopher Bradwall, the said Christopher not knowing or yet privy to any of the same. May it please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises and to receive punishment for their said offences.

The answer of William Snede, esquire, John Wedgewood, etc.

As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. Christopher Bradwall had a mare stolen from him, which was in the possession of the said plaintiff, who has for a long time been accounted a thief, and has been divers times indicted of felony. The said John Wedgewood, constable of the late King Henry VIII.'s lordship of Horton, co. Staff., perceiving the said person to be a suspect, seized the mare and sent it to the said Christopher, whereupon William Snede, the King's steward of the said lordship, upon further complaint made to him, commanded John Malkyn and John Burton his servants to arrest the plaintiff. They, together with the said Wedgewood, arrested and brought him to the said William Snede, who sent him to the gaol, which plaintiff was indicted of felony according to the law, of which he is not acquitted. The said John Wedgewood and John Burton, by command of the said Snede, to the use of the said King, made an inventory of such goods and chattels that were in the plaintiff's house to the intent they should be forthcoming if he were convicted of the said felony. Without that that the 16th September, etc. [*traverse the bill*], except that the said Snede, Rudyard and William Smythe took such cattle and goods, etc., and kept them within the lordship of Horton until the plaintiff found surety that they should be forthcoming if he should be found guilty of the said felony, which cattle and goods, etc., were delivered again immediately to the said plaintiff. The said William Snede says he gave evidence against the said

plaintiff upon the said bill of indictment, which he will give again when the plaintiff shall be arraigned upon the said indictment, if he may have knowledge of the said arraignment.

The replication of Thomas Wolsenam.

Says in all things as he has said in his said bill of complaint. Forasmuch as the defendants in their answer have confessed the said trespass to be done by them to the plaintiff he prays that they may make satisfaction to him for the same. And insomuch as they have confessed the wrongful taking of the said goods, he prays restitution of the goods taken from him and not yet restored, to wit, a mare bay coloured price 40*s.*, 4 yards of white kersey price 8*s.*, 2 yards of linen price 2*s.*

The rejoinder of William Snede, John Wedgewood, etc.

Say as they heretofore have said in their answer. [*Traverse the replication.*]

Interrogatories to be ministered on behalf of Thomas Wolfename, to William Snede and John Wedgewood.

William Snede of Bradewall, co. Staff., esquire, examined 5th February, 1 Edward VI. [1547], says :—[*as in his answer*]. He confesses that at the next sessions at Stafford he openly gave evidence and declared the cause of the apprehension of the plaintiff. Hugh Merrey and others present there, by whom this deponent received his information, gave evidence against the plaintiff, whereupon he was indicted. Whether the evidence was given in the name of Christopher Bradewall or whether the said Christopher was privy thereto he knows not. He denies he procured the same persons to give evidence, but declared to the justices that they gave first information. Thereupon they were called. He has heard Richard Byddell say that the said mare was his and that he sold it to the plaintiff.

John Horton, servant to William Snede, says [*as in answer and above*].

John Malkyn of Lady More, servant to William Snede [*says as above*]. He drove the cattle of the plaintiff to the house of John Wedgewood the constable, being ¼ mile off, and there kept them one night, and delivered the same on the morrow upon sureties bound for the same.

John Wedgewood of Horton, co. Staff., husbandman, says [*as in the answer*]. He confesses he procured Hugh Morrey and William Adams to be at the said sessions, to give evidence against the plaintiff. He

did not make Christopher Bradwall[1] privy thereto and he has heard the plaintiff bought the mare of Richard Beddell, gentleman.

Ralph Rideard, of Rydyard, co. Staff., gentleman, was not present nor privy to anything contained in these interrogatories. He was present at the same sessions, where it was declared that the matter laid against the plaintiff for stealing the mare was taken up. This deponent thereupon said the same matter was not taken up. Christopher Bradewall was not privy or consenting that he should speak these words.

William Smith, servant to Raufe Rydyard, says he was not present at nor consenting to anything contained in these interrogatories, saving that he was at the said sessions in attendance on his master.

At Ludlow, 17th September, 1 Edward VI. [1547].

Witnesses on behalf of Thomas Wolsenam, taken before the King's Commissioners, against William Snede, esquire, and others.

Richard Bydulfe of Bydulfe, co. Stafford, esquire, aged 52 years; Christopher Bradwall of Marson, co. Staff., husbandman, aged 40 years; Richard Bold of Sond, co. Staff., husbandman, aged 50 years; Robert Alen of Enston, co. Staff., husbandman, aged 34 years. [*All depose as the plaintiff in his bill says.*]

Writ, dated at Westminster 29 *June*, 1 *Edward VI., of* dedimus potestatem, *to the Commissioners of the King in the Marches of Wales, to examine witnesses in the matter.*

At Ludlow, 12th January, 1 Edward VI. [1548].

Witnesses on behalf of Sir William Snede, knight, examined by the Commissioners of the King in the Marches of Wales, by virtue of the King's writ, hereunto annexed.

John Wedgewood of Horton, co. Staff., aged 52 years, sworn, etc., says:—

Thomas Wolsenam has been indicted 4 times, twice at Stafford, once for stealing an ox from the King's takers, and another time for stealing sheep from Richard Clewes and Richard Smyth, and twice in the lordship of Horton, for stealing corn out of a field of Christopher Edge, and for a mare of Christopher Bradwall.

About Michaelmas 12 month [1546], he being Constable of Horton, perceiving that Wolsenam kept a mare suspiciously in his house, asked Hugh Morrey whether any man missed a mare. On the morrow the said Hugh said that the mare was Christopher Bradwall's. Afterwards

[1] Bradwall was Wolsenham's father-in-law. He denied the loss because he would not hang his son-in-law. This evidence is not transcribed.

this deponent, knowing the mare to be stolen, by virtue of his office went to the house of Wolsenam and took the mare and sent the same to Christopher Bradwall, in case he would find sureties to sue to the said Wolsenam for stealing the same. The same day Hugh Arswicke (Erdeswick) esquire, took the mare from this deponent's servants, who declared that the said Bradwall would not take the said mare nor leave it, and said that he had rather another man than he should hang the said Wolsenam. Further [*as before*].

Hugh Morrey of Sonde, co. Staff., aged 50 years, sworn, etc., says [*as above*].

Raufe Smythe of Sande aforesaid, aged 56 years; Hugh Ordiswike of Sandon aforesaid, esquire, justice of the peace, co. Staff., aged 30 years; Raufe Rydeyard of Rydyarde, co. Staff., aged 37 years; John Nedam of Bradwall, co. Staff., aged 30 years; William Adams of Stoke, co. Staff., aged 63 years; William Fenney of Chedelton, aged 38 years; John Mawkyn of Horton, aged 35 years; [*all depose as before has been said by others*].

Another writ of dedimus potestatem, *dated at Westminster 28th June, 1 Edward VI., directed to the King's Commissioners in the Marches of Wales, to examine witnesses in the matter.*

Examination of witnesses made upon the interrogatories ministered by Thomas Wolsenham, 20th June, 1 Edward VI. [1547].

Richard Edge of Horton,[1] yeoman, aged 35 years, sworn, etc., says:—

On the day mentioned, he being in his own ground saw John Wedgewood and others go to the plaintiff's house, with swords and staves, and there they broke the doors, and entered upon the plaintiff. This deponent met them taking the plaintiff to Snede's house and offered to be surety for him, which they refused. He was at the sessions, and heard the bill of indictment read in the name of Christopher Bradwall. Mr. Bydwell (Biddulph) has openly declared the plaintiff bought the mare of him. John Wedgewood took away the mare from the plaintiff and has not returned it.

Thomas Bradwall of Horton, husbandman, aged 40 years, sworn, etc., says [*as Richard Edge says*].

Thomas Byddell of Horton, husbandman, aged 50 years, sworn, etc., says [*as above*].

William Edge of Horton, husbandman, aged 31 years, sworn, etc. says [*as above*].

[1] Ric. Edge and John Wedgwood were brothers-in-law, having married daughters of John Bowyer of Knypersley. There seems to have been little love lost between them; see p. 168, *postea*.

BROKE *v.* FYTTON.

Bundle 8, No. 40.

Interrogatories to be ministered to Sir Edward Fytton, knight, and John Couper, on behalf of Henry Broke.

[1547] 1. Did you Sir Edward, 12th July 38 Henry VIII. or any time before or since the covenant of marriage of Rauf Egerton, esquire, cause in any manner the said Rauf Egerton, William Egerton, Rauf Thicknis, Lawrence Roope, William Bukley, Edward Walker, Hugh Rogers, John Hole, John Couper, John Hadersage, John Dunne, Robert Lee, Charles Thicknis, Randall More, Humfrey Vice, Robert Trikett, William Raynalds, Rauf Blowre, Richard Weston, William Palmer, Richard Bukley, John Bocher, John Hassall, Hugh Rawbone, and Mathewe Smyth or any of them, to assemble at the house of the said William Egerton called Brigeend to consult of their going to the house of Henry Broke called the house and manor of Wrymhill, co. Stafford, to dispossess the said Henry of the said house and manor?

2. Did you, the said Sir Edward, the day aforesaid, or before or since, procure Rauf Egerton or others to come to the said house, to avoid Henry Broke of his possession?

3. Did you counsel William Egerton to aid the said Rauf to enter into the said house, at any time?

4. Did you cause John Couper to inveigle the said Rauf Egerton to enter into the same house?

5. Did you at any time since the said covenant of marriage procure, will, or desire the said John Couper to procure or inveigle the said Rauf not to tarry in the keeping of Henry Broke?[1]

6. Did you cause your wife or any other to counsel the said Rauf not to tarry in the keeping of Henry Broke or to enter into the said house or manor? [*Same interrogatories put to John Couper.*]

John Couper, servant to Rauf Egerton, esquire, examined 23 October 1 Edward VI., says:—

1. He was never willed by Sir Edward Fytton, knight, to counsel the said Rauf not to tarry in the custody of the said Henry Broke.

2. He was never procured by his means to counsel the same Rauf to enter the house of William Egerton or the manor of Wrynhill, or to trouble Henry Broke in the same.

3. He denies that he broke any chests in the same house or took any goods thence, nor saw any chests broken, nor was procured by the said Sir Edward Fytton so to do.

[1] Ralph Egerton was Broke's stepson; see pedigree, p. 29.

EGERTON *v.* SAVAGE.

Bundle 1, No. 105.

To the King's highness.

Your subject William Edgerton of Betteley, co. Stafford. Whereas [1547] William Chetwyn, esquire, deceased, was seised of certain lands and pasture called *Cheydelton Park, co. Stafford*, and so being seised granted the premises to Edward Lyttelton, esquire and Dame Isabel Dreycotte his wife, late wife to Sir [John] Draycott, knight, deceased,[1] for term of the life of Isabel, who so seised about one year or more last past leased the premises to your subject for one year next after the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady last past, and so from year to year during the pleasure of the said Edward and Isabel, yielding therefor yearly certain rent. So it is that Thomas Brount of co. Staff., labourer, William Savage, gentleman, William Fynney of the same, labourer, Edward Deyne of the same, labourer, Hugh Corden, Richard Savage, gentleman, Nicolas Mungunbury, gentleman, Christopher Crother, Robert Beley, Thomas Stanley, William Sryngfellow, and others by the command of Lawrence Savage, riotously assembled at Cheydelton about 29th March, in the first year of your reign, also 3rd May in the said year, and divers times before and since, with force and arms and cut and cast down the hedges of the said ground and entered into the same, and not only made assault on William Hassells, William Reynold, and, other servants of your subject, but also chased the cattle of your subject out of the same pasture and hurt divers of the same. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Lawrence Savage, etc., commanding them to appear to answer thereunto.

FLODE *v.* TURNER.

Bundle 4, No. 71.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orators John Flode of the city of London, cook, and Alice his [1547] wife. Whereas Henry Hurste of Wodend, co. Staff., deceased, was seised by good title of inheritance of a parcel of ground called Nether Haunches in Wodend, and died so seased, after whose death the same parcel descended to the said Alice, as sister and next heir of Henry. After the death of which Henry who died about — years last, your orators in right of the said Alice entered the said parcel and were

[1] And, before that, wife to Ralph Egerton of Cheddleton ; see pedigree, p. 29.

thereof seised, and the profits thereof took peaceably, until 11th March in this 1st year of your reign, that John Turner, clerk, with Thomas Hodson, Nicholas Fynymor and others in riotous manner forcibly repaired to the said parcel of ground, and broke into the same and put out your said orators and Rowland Charles, tenant of the same parcel, and then and there cut down 7 great trees growing in the same, and divided and enclosed the same parcel from another parcel of ground of your orators, adjoining the same, called Overhaunches, which lay together for the commodity of your orators. If your orators had "enterprised to have letted" the said riotous persons there would have ensued murder, which said persons keep possession of the same parcel in so riotous manner that your orators cannot without much danger enter into the same, and also stand in daily fear of their lives. Therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said John Turner, etc., commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] Received on the morrow of [All] Souls.

WEDGEWOOD *v.* EDGE, BARLOWE, ETC.

Bundle 4, No. 62.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

[1547] Your orator John Wedgewode of Horton, co. Stafford. Whereas before this time suit was had between your orator of the one part, and Richard Edge of the other part, before Richard, Bishop of Coventry, and Lichfield, for and upon the sitting in a chapel called Horton Chapel in the parish of Leke; within which parish as well your orator as the said Richard dwell, which parish of Leke and also the said chapel are within the jurisdiction of the said Bishop; on hearing which matter the said Bishop by David Pole his chancellor decreed that your subject should have the seat in the same chapel by your orator at his charges set, for himself, his wife, children, and servants to sit or kneel at, and that the said Richard Edge should have a seat within the same chapel by him there set, for like purpose. By force whereof your subject used the same for three months and more. After 31st July 38 Henry VIII., William Barlowe of Norton Woodhouse, co. Staff., yeoman, and Lawrence Sheplebothom (Shufflebotham) of Horton and other riotous persons to the number of 10, by the commandment of the said Richard Edge, and William Edge, Thomas Bedull and Thomas Bradwall, in riotous manner with force and arms, assembled at Horton and broke and entered into the said chapel and the said seat cut and broke down; after which

William Snede, esquire, steward of the manor of Horton within which the said chapel stands, having a letter directed to him from the Chancellor to see that a new seat was set up, came to the said chapel to see it set up. The said Richard Edge, William Edge, Thomas Bradwall, Thomas Bedull, Thomas Watson, Richard Meyott, Hugh Mychell, William Staley, and others, with force and arms, riotously assembled as aforesaid, would not permit the said William Snede to erect a seat in the same chapel, upon which riots, Lord Stafford, Sir Edward Aston, knight, and Richard Scrymshawe, three of the justices of the peace, co. Staff., awarded their warrant to certain persons to put the said Richard Edge, etc., upon sufficient surety for their good "abeyryng," by force of which they were bound with sufficient surety. Thereupon your orator had a new seat in the said chapel set up by the said steward, which Thomas Ulsenham[1] and James Ulsenham, by the commandment of Richard Edge, etc., 19th August, 38 Henry VIII., the said late King, with force and arms broke and entered into the said chapel and broke down the said seat, in contempt of the said decree. In consideration whereof, please your highness to grant writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said William Barlowe, Richard Edge, etc., commanding them to appear before you to answer to the premises, etc.

BLUNT *v.* CHETWYN.

Bundle 6, No. 34.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

Your orator, George Bluntt, knight, by good title of inheritance descended to him from his ancestors is seised of the manor of Hoppton,[2] co. Stafford, and takes the profits thereof, there is a certain waste ground, or common called Hopton Owtwood, parcell of the said manor within which the tenants of the said manor have used to have common for their beasts, at all times of the year. And because the tenants of the said manor thought it much to their profit to plough parcel of the same, to get corn thereupon, and the said common was very fertile, the same tenants at the beginning of January last, in the 1st year of your reign, desired your orator as lord of the same manor that they might have liberty to plough and dress the same, at whose desire your orator was contented. Thereupon Humfrey Foxe, William Leycytt, Henry Parkyn, and others tenants of your orator, of the said manor, 12th January last, came to the said common to plough parcel of the same, [1548]

[1] Wolsenam had a grievance against Wedgwood, as may be seen on p. 164.

[2] See note on p. 76.

and did plough parcel of the same, and departed. On the next day the said persons repaired again to the said common to plough other parcels of the said common. So it is that Thomas Chatwyn, gentleman, servant to Lord Ferrars, and others who bear no good will to your orator, had upon untrue surmises made to the said Lord and to Humfrey Wellys, Justices of the peace in the said county, which Humfrey married the sister of the said Chatwyn, obtained warrants of *good aberyng* against the said Humfrey Foxe, etc., and others that were at the ploughing of the said ground, by force whereof they were attached by their bodies by the persons authorised by the said warrants to execute the same, immediately after which arrest, divers persons that executed the said warrant, in riotous manner by the procurement of the said Chatwyn, took and drove certain oxen and cattle of the said tenants to the pound at Stafford, and brought the persons so arrested before the said Lord Ferrers, to find sureties, which they to their great trouble did, and sustained much costs about the fees concerning the same arrests, and suing forth of replevyns from the sheriff of the said county, for delivery of their beasts. The said tenants did nothing in the premises but as aforesaid, wherein there was no breach of the peace, riot, or forcible entry, and thus your orator and his tenants are so used by the said Chatwyn and his friends that they cannot occupy the same common. Therefore please your highness to grant a writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas Chatwyn commanding him to appear before you to answer to the premises.

DYCONSON *v.* STEPLETON.

Volume 13, No. 201.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1549] Your subject Richard Dyconson of Bradley, co. Stafford. Whereas Edward Lyttelton, esquire, was of late possessed of the parsonage of Bradley for a term of five years with the glebe lands and tenements thereto belonging, by the demise of John Pylkyngton, late incumbent of the said parsonage, who afterwards resigned the said parsonage into the hands of the ordinary of the diocese to the intent that John Stepleton should be presented thereto. The said John was after, and within the same term, inducted to the said parsonage and yet is parson thereof. Your subject lately had the estate of Edward Lyttleton in the premises during the said term of 5 years by lawful conveyance, which term ended at the feast of the Annunciation last. So it is that in February last, before the end of the said term, the said John Stepleton at the request

of the Duke of Somerset, late Protector, and of the Earl of Warwick, your subject's master, and in the presence of Lord William Gray and William Myles, gentleman, demised to your subject the said parsonage and other the premises. To have from the said feast of the Annunciation to the end of a term of 3 years, yielding such yearly rent as your subject ought to have done during the said term of five years, by the former lease. Nevertheless, in September last while your orator was in your grace's service under the said Earl at Norwich, co. Norfolk, in repressing the rebels there assembled, William Stepleton of Bradley, brother of the said John, by commandment of the said John, about 9th September with John Bothe, John Jenyns, and other riotous persons unlawfully assembled at Bradley, and took 60 thraves of corn gathered after the custom of the tithing in that country, and carried them away, and put your subject's servants in fear of their lives. About the 18th of the same month, John Bowler, the said John Bothe, and Robert Adamson, by the command of John Stepleton with other riotous persons assembled at Bradley riotously, and entered a parcel of the glebe called Myddel Croft and there with ploughs subverted the soil and assaulted your subject so that he was in fear of his life. Forasmuch as your subject has paid the charges of the said benefice and performed the said covenants on his part to be performed, and he and his family are inhabiting the said parsonage and have nowhere else to bestow themselves, and the said John Stepleton has three benefices besides the said parsonage of Bradley, and because your subject shows forth the agreement of the said lease made between the said Sir John Stepleton and him, may it please your honour to grant your letters of privy seal to the said Sir John, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises, and to restore to your subject the said corn or the value thereof, and to permit your subject to occupy and enjoy the said parsonage.

Volume 13, No. 202.

The answers of John Stapleton, clerk, William Stapleton, John Bothe, John Bowler and Robert Adamson.

As to any riot., etc, they are not guilty. Edward Lyttleton was possessed of the parsonage of Bradley for the term of 5 years, with the glebe lands, etc., belonging, by demise of John Pylkyngton, late incumbent of the said parsonage. John Stapleton is now and has been incumbent of the said parsonage for three years. Forasmuch as the tithe corn severed from the ninth in September last, William Stepleton, servant to Sir John, caused part of the said corn to be carried to the use of Sir John, and John Jenyns, a boy aged 12 years, stood

before the oxen drawing the wain. The said John Bothe loaded the cart, and of the said corn there was not above three thraves. They by commandment of the said Sir John took away the said corn as was lawful. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

John Bowler and Robert Adamson, labourers, say that the 18th September last they, by commandment of the said Sir John, in peaceable manner entered the said Myddle Croft and ploughed the same. The plaintiff, accompanied by Robert Sherwyn, clerk, John Blakeman, Robert Wood, and one named Hugh, with arms then and there riotously assaulted them, and struck the oxen and drove them away. If the plaintiff had any hurt, he had the same of his own assault.

Volume 13, No. 203.

The replication of Richard Dyconson.

His said bill of complaint is sufficient in the law to be answered to, and the matter therein good and true, and set forth upon just causes and considerations.

Bundle 8, No. 46.

Interrogatories administered on behalf of Richard Dyconson, concerning a riot committed by John Stepleton and others.

1. Whether John Stepleton, parson of Bradley, had any letters from the Duke of Somerset and the Earl of Warwick on behalf of Richard Dyconson concerning a lease to be made to him of the said parsonage, by the said parson, or not?

2. Was any communication had concerning that lease between the said parson and William Lord Grey, William Myles and others, what was it, and who was present?

3. How many thraves of tythe corn had the said parson of the said parsonage in the last harvest?

4. How many persons were at the carrying of the same, to what value was it, and what did the said Stepleton command the carriers?

5. Were Robert Adamson, John Bowler, and John Bothe in Myddell Croft parcel of the glebe at the time Dyconson was hurt?

6. In what manner did Dyconson come to the said croft, what was there said, and how was he hurt?

7. Did you know that John Stepleton and William Stepleton were near the said croft at the time of the affray?

8. Did they promise to help the said Adamson, etc., and what weapons had they?

William Stapleton of Bradeley, co. Staff., yeoman, examined

8th November, 3 Edward VI., says that in the harvest last he, by the command of John Stapleton, parson of Bradley, with John Bothe and John Jenyns his servants, carried three thraves of tithe corn of the same parsonage to the use of the same parson. They had no weapons, and the corn so carried by them was worth 5*s*. He was not present at the hurting of the plaintiff, and was in his house at the time of the affray. He promised no help to those who were thereat if need should be.

John Both, servant to the before examined, labourer, says he was present with his master and John Jenyns, a boy of 12 years, and helped to carry the corn, etc. [*as above*].

John Bowler, servant to Thomas Stapleton of Bradley, sworn, etc., says he was not present at the carrying of the said corn. About a week before Michaelmas last he and Robert Adamson were in Myddell Croft, ploughing the parson's glebe land, at which time the plaintiff and Robert Wood his servant also John Blakeman and Hugh his servant came and forbade them to plough, and bade them avoid the said ground. The plaintiff "let fly at this deponent and brake his head," so the deponent pulled out the plough staffs and struck the plaintiff. Richard Turner, William Parkes, Thomas Harvye drew near and parted them.

Robert Adamson, servant to Thomas Stapleton of Bradley, sworn, etc., says [*as above*]. John Stapleton, clerk, parson of Bradley, sworn, etc., says he received letters from the Duke of Somerset, late Protector, and from the Earl of Warwick, on behalf of the plaintiff touching a lease to be made by this deponent to the plaintiff of his parsonage of Bradley. In February last he had communication with Lord William Grey touching such lease, who moved him for the same lease, as well on his own part as on the part of the late Protector and the said Earl. This deponent made a refusal to grant the same. The said Lord Grey required this deponent that forasmuch as three peers of the realm were suitors for the same, that he would grant the plaintiff a lease therein for three years, whereunto he answered that he had laid forth 40*s*. for a farm for the plaintiff because he should not be destitute of a house, and the said Lord Grey said he would repay to this deponent the said 40*s*. This deponent said upon that condition and that the plaintiff should find sureties to perform such articles as were comprised in an old indenture of lease of the same parsonage, he would make him a lease of 3 years. So they agreed, and made a draught of the same covenants. The next morning brought with him the same draught, which was read, and after the plaintiff dissented to the same covenants, especially to the reservation of a chamber in the said parsonage, and the days of payment expressed in the same, and would not admit the terms of egress and regress to the

said chamber for him, to be inserted in the same lease. They all departed leaving the matter unagreed. Present that morning, Lord Grey and Mr. Banaster, the deponent and the plaintiff.

KING'S ALMONER *v.* GRIFFITH.

Bundle 6, No. 61.

To the King our most gracious sovereign Lord.

[1549] Your daily orator Nycolas, Bishop of Worcester, late Almoner to the late King Henry VIII. Whereas the said King, 1st November in the 31st year of his reign, made your said subject his Almoner, after which his highness by his letters patent dated 11th November in the said year [1539] in augmentation of his alms, gave to your subject all the goods, debts and chattels of felons, of themselves and of all deodands in the realm of England and Wales and the marches of the same, and within the town of Calais, as well within liberties as without, which then belonged to him or at any time after 31st October then last past should appertain, as long as your subject should be his almoner. Afterwards Elizabeth Yorke, late of Alder, co. Staff., widow, 2nd August, 36 Henry VIII. [1544], at Alder feloniously drowned herself as by an inquisition taken at Alder the same day, before James Wolryche, gentleman, one of the coroners in the said county more at large appears. So it is that the said Elizabeth at the day of her death was possessed of certain mylch kine, oxen, calves, sheep, hogs, tanned leather, napery, and other implements of the household to the value of 14*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, which Sir George Griffith, knight, about 1st April in the 3rd year of your reign [1549] with other persons in riotous manner with force and arms without any title so to do, came to the house of the said Elizabeth and took and carried away, and converted them to the use of the said Sir George. Albeit your subject, by William Ottye, deputy general to your subject, has often requested the said George to restore the said goods to the use abovesaid, he at all times refused and yet refuses. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to the said Sir George, commanding him to appear before you to answer to the premises.

The answer of Sir George Griffith, knight.

The said bill is uncertain, etc., and devised by the malice of William Otty, who has procured this suit against your defendant, as he has done before in other courts of the King's Bench at Westminster, where this defendant has ministered sufficient matter of bar in discharge of the same.

The suit of the premises yet depending there, your defendant demands judgment against the said William and the said plaintiff, whether they shall now be received to set forth this suit to the defrauding of the King whom before they have entitled to the same. As to any goods taken before 14th March last, the said defendant, forasmuch as the King's Majesty's pardon by Act of Parliament granted in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year of his reign has pardoned the same, prays the advantage thereof, though he has sufficient matter to justify the taking of the same. As to the other pardon granted by his highness the said defendant says that he being called before the king for the selfsame goods, has there, in his Bench specially pleaded the same, which remains there undiscussed. If the said defendant is compelled to plead further in this court, he would then sustain double vexation for one cause.

Interrogatories to be ministered to Sir George Griffith, knight.

1. Did Elizabeth Yorke, late of Alder, co. Staff., widow, 2nd August, 36 Henry VIII., feloniously drown herself?

2. Did all the goods, etc., of the said Elizabeth of right belong to the distribution of the said Nicholas as chief almoner of the King, by virtue of his letters patent to the same Nicholas, 11th November in the 31st year of his reign?

3. What goods, etc., was the said Elizabeth of and worth, the day of her death, how much ready money, oxen, etc., had she, and what were they worth?

4. Where were the said goods conveyed, by what persons, and for what intent?

5. How much of the said goods came to the hands of the said Sir George, and what was their value?

6. Did the said Sir George at any time command his chaplain or any other to repair to William Ottye to require him to move his master that the said Sir George might have the said goods and chattels of the said Elizabeth after such rate as they were appraised to?

7. Did the said Sir George at any time agree to pay to the said almoner or his assigns any money for the said offenses (offices?)?

8. By what persons and for what intent did the said Sir William make request to the said William as is aforesaid?

9. For what intent did Sir George come to the said Bishop at his house called "Wurcestre Howse," adjoining the Savoy, and give him hearty thanks?

SNEYDE *v.* BRATT.

Bundle 3, No. 35.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1549] Your subject Sir William Sneyde of Bradwall, co. Staff., knight, is seised of and in the manor of Kele, co. Staff., and the tenants dwelling within the said lordship have time out of mind to the contrary held their lands of the lords of the manor by copy of court roll, which manor is a "fraunches riall" having many privileges by prescription and by grant of the King, as "*retorna brevium*, *weiff*, *streiss*, *ward*, *mariage*, *releif* and *eschete*." Amongst other things the custom of the said manor is always that when any of the lords of the manor have received the King's letters, or otherwise been commanded to serve with their tenants and servants upon your grace or your progenitors in their weighty affairs and wars, within this realm and without, that then the tenants of the said manor, at the command of the lord, should attend upon his person, or otherwise serve underneath him the King, where they should be thereunto appointed, which always was, by a long continuance, practised in the time of the lords of St. John of Jerusalem in England when they were lords of the said manor, and also in the time of other lords before them; until now of late, about 2 months past, your orator receiving letters from the Earl of Warwick to prepare himself with his tenants and servants ready furnished for the wars, to attend upon his lordship against the King's rebels at Norwich,[1] which according to his bounden duty he endeavoured to do, came to Edward Bratt in the said county, gentleman, tenant to your orator and holding certain houses and a great quantity of land within the said manor, after the custom of the manor, and to John Smyth, Richard Browne, John Cowdale, and John Belson, dwelling within the said lordship, knowing them to be meet persons to serve your grace, commanding them to prepare themselves to go with your said subject to attend upon the Earl Warwick, which to do they by the counsel of the said Edward Bratt plainly refused, and riotously assembled together to resist your subject, to the evil example of all the inhabitants in the said lordship and other lordships adjoining, if condign punishment be not speedily had. Also the said Edward Bratt for his refusal and abettment has justly by the laws of this realm forfeited to your subject all his lands in the said manor held by copy, as is aforesaid. Wherefore it may please your highness to grant your

[1] John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, defeated Ket's rising in Norfolk in 1549.

writs of *subpena* against the said Edward, etc., commanding them to appear to make answer to the premises, etc.

[*Endorsed.*] Received on the octaves of St. Hillary.

BRINDLEY *v.* GOUGHE, ETC.

Bundle 3, No. 69.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your poor subject John Brindley and Agnes his wife. Whereas [1549] John Marcer was seised of one mease and 20 acres of pasture and meadow called Myllhouse in the parish of Lapley, co. Staff., and leased the premises to Richard Mercer and Isabel his wife for term of their lives, by force whereof they were seised; and so being seised, in consideration of a marriage to be had between your subjects, granted and assigned the premises together with all the estate of the said Richard and Isabel to your subjects, to have and to hold during the life of Richard and Isabel, by force whereof your subjects were seised, the said Richard and Isabel being yet alive, and have taken the profits of the premises till the — November last, in the second year of your reign, that Thomas Goughe, Richard Goughe, William Goughe and Robert Goughe and other riotous persons riotously assembled at Millhouse with force and arms and entered into the premises and expulsed your subjects from the possession of all the premises, except one little chamber. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Thomas, etc., commanding them to appear to answer, etc.

ROBYNSON *v.* COMERFORD.

Bundle 4, No. 91.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Johanna Robynson, widow, late the wife and executrix [1549] of George Robynson of Drayton Bassett, co. Staff., deceased. Whereas Thomas Drake, deceased, was seised of a parcel of ground called Gunebuttes in Drayton Bassett, and held the same of the said George Robynson as of his manor of Drayton Bassett, by knight service, and a certain rent, of which manor the said George was possessed for certain years yet enduring, and by his last will made your subject his executrix and died, by force whereof your subject was possessed of the said manor, and the said Thomas also died seised of the said parcel of ground, after which the premises descended to Elen Drake and Agnes

Drake, as cousins and heirs of the said Thomas, that is to say, daughters and heirs of John Drake, the elder, son of and heir of the said Thomas. The said Elen and Agnes at the death of the said Thomas were under the age of 14 years, and are yet under the age of 16, by reason whereof your subject seised the bodies of the said Elen and Agnes, as their guardian by knight service and entered into the said parcel of land. So it is that Henry Blewe, John Fletcher, John Grynshall, Robert Byrding, Richard Byrchall, William Lankesheir, Richard Wright, William Jacson, Humfrey Burrows, Thomas Clyff and Thomas Sale and others, by the procurement of Humfrey Comerforde, 12th July, in the 3rd year of your reign, at which time there was much rebellion committed by evilly disposed persons of this realm, unlawfully assembled, and with force and arms wrongfully entered the said ground and lands of your subject, and utterly expulsed your subject therefrom. Further the said persons on the same day wounded William Hynckes, servant to your subject, when he came to them in the said ground, whereby your subject for a long time lost the service of her said servant. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said misruled persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises, etc.

The answer of Humfrey Cummerforde, esquire, Sir Thomas Savell, priest, Harry Bleue, Robert Byrding, Richard Byrchall, and John Grymshall.

As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. If they were guilty of the riots, etc., supposed by the said bill to be committed by them, as they are not, the King of his great mercy, has by his liberal pardon by authority of his parliament, pardoned all the same offences. At the time of the granting of the said pardon they were all the King's subjects, of which said pardon they pray the benefit. The defendants disclaim to have any interest in the said ground in Drayton Bassett.

The replication of Johanne Robynson, widow.

Says as she has said in her bill of complaint. The said defendants as well at the time of the said riot, as at many other times, have committed trespasses upon the said ground, in "deffouling" the herbe growing there and in carrying away the hay growing upon the same, and beating her servants.

The rejoinder of Humfrey Comerford, etc.

Saying as they before have said in their answer, aver everything therein contained to be good and true. [*Traverse the said replication.*]

YONG *v.* YONG.

Bundle 2, No. 50.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Thomas Yong, before this time exhibited a bill of complaint in your high court of Chancery against John Yong and Custance his wife and others, for evidences, charters and muniments concerning a messuage called Brodok, 200 acres of land and pasture, in the parish of Kyngeley, co. Stafford, whereupon it was proved that your beseecher had good title in the premises, by reason whereof it was ordered that the said John his heirs or assigns should in no wise intermeddle with the said lands but suffer your beseecher his heirs and assigns to have the said lands, and that the said John should deliver to your beseecher all the evidences, etc., concerning the said lands, and pay to your beseecher all such costs and expenses which your beseecher had borne in the suit of the same. Also the said John Yong, intending utterly to undo your orator, and to have annulled the said decree, withdrew from the said court and also out of his country, and caused the said Custance to exhibit a bill of complaint before your highness, supposing that your said beseecher had murdered the said John, by reason of which your beseecher was put to great charges and attendance before your highness at two terms, and was sued as well in your bench at Westminster as in co. Staff., by the said Custance, whereby your beseecher was put in danger of his life, and to great charges, whereas the same John all the same time "eloyned" himself in co. Kent, about his daily business, as the said Custance confessed before your highness and your lords of the council. Also the said John Yong, nothing regarding the same, of his further cruel mind, contrary to the said decree will in nowise suffer your beseecher to have the possession of the said lands, insomuch as 12th January last the said John Yong in riotous manner with other evil-disposed persons with force and arms entered the pastures of your beseecher at Brodok, parcel of the said lands, and broke and cut down the hedges and gates of your beseecher and drove out his cattle, and would not suffer your beseecher to plough the said lands, and made assault upon him. Also your said beseecher has often requested him to have delivery of the said evidences, etc., and to have payments of his costs according to the said decree, which to do the said John at all times refuses. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said John, commanding him to appear to answer to the premises. [? 1547-51]

GERARD *v.* DODD.

Bundle 6, No. 16.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

[1547-53] Your subject Sir Thomas Gerard, knight, and William Hunte, servant to your said suppliant. Whereas your subject and all his ancestors have been seised by lawful title of descent of the *manor of Bromley in the parish of Ecclessall*, co. Staff., parcel of which manor is wood called Willibrydge Parke, in which wood for a long time there have eeried sparrowhawks by the space of 60 years last, and this present year the said hawk eeried there and had 5 young hawks, and your said subject commanded his said servant to make him a "cabben" in the said wood to keep and watch the said hawks there. So it is that John Dodd of Clorley,[1] co. Salop, esquire, enticed Robert Parkes, yeoman, his household servant, Thomas Taylor of Pyxley, co. Salop, bailiff to the said John Dodd, and Richard Emys otherwise Enys of Drayton in Hales, co. Salop, "sherman," to conyey away the said hawkes, by force whereof, 27th June last, they assembled in riotous manner at the said woodside, and entered the said wood with "vysors" upon their faces, hoods upon their heads, and otherwise disguised, one hour after sunrise, and made assault on the said William Hunt then being within his cabin, and after took him and bound him to a tree, and after, with like force took away 5 young hawks out of the nest of the said sparrowhawk, and conveyed them to the house of John Dodd, to the loss of your suppliant and the utter undoing of William Hunt, who has consumed all he has in surgery and by reason of his beating is not able to serve again. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Dodd and Robert Parkes commanding them to appear before you to make answer to the premises.

The answer of John Dodd, esquire.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. If it were true, as it is not, it is determinable at the Common Law. As to the riot, entry, etc., he is not guilty. [*Traverses the whole bill.*]

The answer of Robert Parkes.

As to any riot, etc., or other misdemeanours in the said surmised bill alleged, he is not guilty.

[1] For the pedigree of Dodd of Cloverley see Burke's *Landed Gentry* (W. F. C.).

HOGETT *v.* AP RICE, ETC.

Bundle 1, No. 8.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Richard Hogett, yeoman. Whereas of late Arthur Ap Rice was bound by his deed obligatory, to Florence Lother in the sum of £60 6*s.* 8*d.* for the payment of £40, of which £40 the said Arthur paid to the said Florence £30; and for non payment of £10 the rest of the said sum the said Florence sued a writ of *latitat* on the said Ap Rice out of the King's Bench and had him arrested, and the said Arthur, so being in prison, met your subject, desiring him to be his bail for his forthcoming at whose desire your subject became bound accordingly. After, the said Florence being a man [*sic*] of great craft, intending to cause your subject to pay the sum of £60 6*s.* 8*d.* not only declared against the said Ap Rice in the said court, but persuaded the said Ap Rice to be condemned in the said action in default of answer, promising him to take no execution upon the judgment but against your subject only. After the said judgment in the premises had, the said Florence and Ap Rice showed your subject that they were agreed, and the said Florence satisfied of his debt, and your subject giving credence to the same never looked further into the said matter, by reason whereof he was condemned by two *scire facias*, and thereupon your subject being at a fair in Coventry was arrested, by the sheriffs of Coventry, where he remained in prison 9 weeks, and was not released till he delivered into the hand of the sheriffs a pawn. So it is that your subject repairing to your highness to complain, at West Bromwich, co. Staff., the 20th August last, the said Florence and Arthur with other evil disposed persons in riotous manner, to the intent he should not so complain, made assault on him, putting him in great danger of his life, and daily lie in wait to murder him, for fear whereof he dare not abide in his native country. Therefore please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Florence and Arthur, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises. [1547-53]

PORTE *v.* WALKER.

Bundle 7, No. 75.

Writ of dedimus potestatem, *dated 23rd May, 5 Edward VI., directed to Edward Draycott, Vincent Mundy and Brian Fowler, esquires, and James Rolleston, gentleman, to examine certain witnesses on the part of George Walker.* [1551]

Interrogatories on the part of George Walker, defendant, against John Porte, plaintiff.

1. Who is chief lord of the lordship of Ilam?

2. How many acres of land, meadow and pasture is the said George now seised of in the lordship and parish of Ilam, and in whose tenure is the same in?

3. Have the said George and his ancestors been seised of the same time out of mind or not?

4. Of what lands are Richard Baly and Robert Jacsyon seised in the said parish, and how long have they and their ancestors been in possession of the same?

5. Have they been used [to pasture] with all their cattle on the common called Ilam More, Dales Woode and Bunster, at all times, time out of mind, or not?

6. Have not William Blowre and Pers Tyterton, two of the defendants and tenants to the said George Walker, and other tenants of the said George and his ancestors of farms in Ilam had the same common, time out of mind?

7. Was Humphrey Walker, gentleman, father of the said George and Henry seised of the manor of Castorne, co. Stafford?

8. Do you know Ilam More, and is the said moor a waste ground, or common, or not?

9. Did the said Humphrey and his ancestors have common for all manner of cattle without number for themselves their tenants and farmers of the said manor, at all times of the year, as appurtenant to the manor of Castorne?

10. Did they put their cattle in the said moor without let or hindrance and how do you know this to be true?

11. What were the names of the tenants who commoned with their beasts in the said moor?

12. Did the said John Porte begin to make a wall about 10 yards long about a part of the same, and for what intent, and was it not to have inclosed the said common from George Walker and such persons as have common there?

The examination of witnesses on behalf of George Walker, gentleman, 1st October, 5 Edward VI.

Thomas Bafford of Oker (Okeover), co. Stafford, yeoman, aged 58 years, says he knows that Master Rauffe Oker, esquire, is chief lord of the lordship of Ilam and Castorne. He has dwelt at Oker for forty years and more with Humphrey Oker grandfather to his master, and with this Master Rauffe, now his master, and has received at divers times in that space, first of Rauffe Wydor and after that of John Wydor, and since at the hands of Edward Shortt, tenant to John Porte, gentleman,

for the same John Porte, 14*s.* for the chief rent of Ilam, and of Humphrey Walker of Castorne, and of George Walker his son, yearly 4*s.* for the chief rent of Castorn in the lordship of Ilam, to the use of his master.

William Hall of Wetton, co. Stafford, aged 60 years and more, says [*as above*] George Walker is now seised of 100 acres of land, etc., in the lordship and parish of Ilam, which is in the occupation of the same George. He never heard otherwise but that the said George and his ancestors have been seised of the said lands time out of mind. Richard Baylie and Robert Jackson of Stansopp, co. Stafford, and their fathers before them whom he knew, used with all manner their cattle to common on Ilam More, Dales Wood and Bunster, at all times of the year. William Blowre and Pyers Tyterton, tenants of the said George, and others before them, tenants of the same farms in Ilam, have had all the time of his remembrance common for all their cattle without rate or number on the said commons. Humphrey Walker, father of the said George and Henry, was seised of the Manor of Castorne. He knows Ilam Moor for he was born and for the most part of his life has dwelt within one mile of it. All the time of his remembrance Ilam Moor has been called a waste ground and a common and so been used.

The said Humphrey and his ancestors and their tenants used from time to time to put their cattle in the said Moor without let or disturbance, saving that about 30 years past he was disturbed of the same for 2 or 3 years by the Abbot of Burton. Nevertheless he again enjoyed the same till within the last 4 years the said John Porte troubled the said George about the same. He knows Richard Bowman, and John Olyver, tenants to the said Humphrey, and the said William Blowre and Pyers Tyterton, tenants of the said George, to common with their cattle on the said moor. The said George has used to common there with his cattle at all times of the year. All the time of his remembrance the said George Walker and his ancestors and their tenants, and Robert Jackson of Stansopp, tenant to Mr. Henry Sacheverell, esquire, and Richard Baylie of Stansopp, a freeholder there, have used to common on the said moor with their cattle, as abovesaid.

The said John Porte caused a stone wall, 12 yards long, to be made about 2 years past, about a part of the said moor, which wall was shortly after cast down, but by whom he cannot say.

Richard Byrche of Wetton, aged 46 years, Richard Johnson of Hoope, co. Stafford, aged 60 years, and Robert Clerke of Alstonfeld, co. Stafford, say as William Hall has deposed. They say that Richard Baylie, a freeholder in Stansopp, and Robert Jackson, a tenant to Mr.

Henry Sacheverell, another freeholder, have certain lands in Ilam, whereof they and their ancestors have been possessed all the time of their remembrance, but they know not the certainty of those lands. Further they say that Thomas Sergaunte, servant to George Walker, cast down part of the said wall.

Thomas Gibbis of Alstonfeld, aged 60 years, Thomas Clerke of Alstonfeld, aged 60 years, Richard Grenesmyth, of Alstonfeld aged 56 years, Thomas Stones of Alstonfeld aged 60 years, Thomas Tyterton of Narodale, co. Stafford, aged 55 years, and John Heythcote of Alstonfeld, aged 40 years, say as the said William Hall [etc.] have deposed.

[*Endorsed.*] Brought in by Vincent Mundy, one of the commissioners, 14th October.

Depositions taken at Ilam otherwise Ilom, 1st April, 5 Edward VI., before Francis Meverell, John Cuny, Ralph Rydyard, esquires, by virtue of the King's commission directed to them.

Thomas Wydder, aged 80 years, says John Porte is lord of Ilam town and lordship, and receives rents there, and also the chief rent of John Meverell, being his freeholder in the same lordship. A court is held at the said Manor of Ilam in the name of John Porte. The Abbot of Burton on Trent and Wydders have before this time been reputed to be lords of the lordship of Ilam, and time out of mind have "joysted" all manner of cattle to the wastes of the said lordship, as owners thereof, and all that parcel of Ilam is parcel of the Manor of Ilam. He knows that Ilam Moor is "several" ground, and has been ploughed, and so it appears at this present "to be rygge and forrow." A great part was sown this year. The lordship of Ilam extends to Stansop Wall and from Stansop wall to Hoclyffe, and from Hocclyffe to Stansop dale, to the water of Dove, and following the said water to Dovestyl and down by Thorpe Mylne to the Nether end of Hanley, and so forth to Manyfolde, to Ilom town, and so from Ilam the said lordship following the water to Hengyng Clyffe, and Musden Grange and so follows the water to Casthorne ground, and follows Casthorne ground to Stansop wall. A parcel of ground called Hocclyve has been inclosed from Ilam lordship and Ilam Moor for 60 years and more. The field between Hocclyve and Stansoptown is called Stansopfield, and the inhabitants of Ilam never "entercomyn" there. The lordship of Casthorne is not in Ilam but the lords of Casthorne and their tenants have paid money to the lords of Ilam, rately, after their cattle.

It is 40 years and more since John Walker, grandfather to George and Henry, enclosed a great close called Bytchyn Hyll Bothome, from Ilam lordship, above the More Yate. Ralph Walker, great grandfather

to George, above 80 years past enclosed 2 closes called Rooclose and Wall Seche Close from Ilam Moor. He has heard all men say that the lordship of Ilam has "entercomyned" with all manner of cattle through the lordship of Casthorne to Magates Yate and so to Brood Stone.

The lords of Casthorne have paid to the lords of Ilam 7*s.* a year for the "yate"[1] of 100 sheep in the enclosure above the More Yate.

Henry Walker and Thomas Sergyant pulled down the "yate stopes" and cut down a hedge on the top of Bunster and cast down a stone wall, and Thomas Sergyant and John Ferne, servants to George Walker kept their master's cattle in Dales Wood field, being whole grass, and for so trespassing Thomas Kempe would have "pynned" the said cattle.

Peter Tyterton and William Blore dwell in the parish of Ilam, but not within the lordship. George Walker, Peter Tyterton, William Blore, John Ferne, Thomas Sergyant kept their cattle in all places of Ilam Moor, contrary to right.

Richard Bayley, John Jackson, and Robert Jackson were tenants to John Porte by virtue of a lease made by Ralph Wydder, sometime one of the lords of Ilam, and have paid rent and done other services to the said John Porte, since he was lord of Ilam, for their cattle going on the said Moor.

George Walker and Henry procured divers warrants of good aberyng against John Porte and his servants for vexation only, and for occupying his own ground. William Clerke, aged 76 years, says as Thomas Wydder has before said.

Robert Bowman, aged 60 years, says as the said Thomas Wydder above has said.

John Wydder, aged 58 years, says as Thomas Wydder has said.

William Morton, aged 60 years, Edward Shyrrard, aged 40 years, and William Wydder aged 50 years says as the said Thomas Wydder has said.

Interrogatories to be ministered on the part of John Porte, plaintiff. [Answered above.]

Depositions taken at Ilam, 3rd April, 5 Edward VI., before John Porte[2] and Thomas Cokeyn, knights, and Edward Draycott, esquire, by virtue of the King's commission directed to them, on behalf of John Porte, plaintiff.

Richard Clerke of Waterfall, co. Stafford, husbandman, aged

[1] A term still well-known in Yorkshire.

[2] Sir John Port, founder of Repton School, Knighted 1547, M.P. Derbyshire1553, d. 1557. He was no connection of the family of Porte of Ilam.

80 years, says [*as Thomas Wydder has above said*]. Further this deponent says that he himself has ploughed in two or three places upon Ilam More, and that Wydder and his tenants, and the Abbot of Burton and his tenants, have ploughed on the said moor, that is to say, John Cartelage, Thomas Hanson, and John Bowryng for the Abbot, and Robert Bowman for Mr. Meverell, being a freeholder, and that all Ilam More has been ploughed. Humphrey Walker had 100 sheep going on Ilam More, and he paid a noble a year to Wydder. He knows that the lords of Stansop and Casterne are owners of Stansop field, and that the tenants of Ilam never "intercomyned" there. Ralph Wydder sometime lord of Ilam made a lease to Richard Bayly, John Jacson, and Robert Jacson, but whether they are tenants of John Porte he cannot tell. One Wydder "joysted" the cattle and sheep of Ilam More, and received money of them to his own use, and that the Abbot of Burton's tenants had half thereof. Sir Henry Nycholson, chaplain to Francis Meverell of Throwley, esquire, aged 60 years says as Richard Clerke has said. He saw a Court roll of the Abbot of Burton which was in King Richard II.'s days, about the 11th year of his reign, and that the court was kept in the Abbot's name. He was at a "hakyng" of part of the said Ilam More about 23 years past, and at that time it was sown with corn. The lordship of Casterne is separate from Ilam, and the owner of Casterne has certain lands and freehold in the parish of Ilam. Humphrey Walker had by reason of an award between the Abbot Beane of Burton, Rauff Wydder and himself, pasture in Ilam More for 100 sheep, and he paid to them 7*s.* a year.

Last year, being 4 Edward VI., John Porte's servants took to "joyste" certain cattle and sheep, to Ilam More.

Thomas Sherard of Ilam, aged 30 years, tenant to John Porte, says [*as above*].

The lease of Richard Baylye, John Jacson and Robert Jacson, tenants of John Porte, is expired, since which they have kept their cattle upon Ilam More.

The said George Walker and Henry have procured divers indictments of riots and trespasses against the said John Porte and his servants.

Upon the part of George Walker, defendant.

William Teylyour of Wetton, husbandman, tenant to Mr. Crymes, aged 80 years, says that Rauff Oker of Oker in chief lord of Ilam, and that John Wydder borrowed 14*s.* of this deponent to pay Mr. Oker his chief rent. He knows that Casterne, Stansop, and Ilam have inter-

commoned together on Ilam More. Further [*as in other depositions on the part of George Walker*].

Humphrey Clerke, of Ansfeild, tenant to Henry Sacheverell, esquire, aged 60 years, says as William Teylyour has said.

William Wylde of Wetton, tenant to Mr. Crymes, aged 64 years, says as William Teylyour has said.

GOODWYN, ETC. *v.* PORTE, ETC.

Bundle 1, No. 15.

The King our most dread sovereign Lord.

Your faithful subjects John Goodewyn, clerk, vicar of Ilame, co. [1551] Staff., George Walker of the same, gentleman, Harry Walker of the same, gentleman, William Blower of the same, husbandman, parishoners of Ilome aforesaid. Whereas Richard Hall, clerk, late vicar of Ilome, predecessor to the said John Goodwyn, and Humphrey Walker, gentleman, father of the said George, 7 Henry VIII. made a "quere" or desk of the length of 5 yards of their own goods in the chancel of the parish church of Ilome, by consent of the whole parish aforesaid, for the only use of the said Richard Hall then being vicar there, and his successors, to say divine service, and for the easement of the said Humphrey and his heirs, and of the whole parish to sit and kneel at liberty. And whereas also your said subjects and others of the parish aforesaid were possessed of a chest, locked, in the said chancel with a registry book enclosed in the same provided for registering all marriages, burials and baptisms had in the same church according to the ordinance made by your said father [Henry VIII.] in that behalf. So it is, that John Porte of Ilome, gentleman, Thomas Sheratt of the same, labourer, Alice Sterret [*sic*] of the same, spinster, with others, 20th May in the 5th year of your reign, with force and arms riotously broke into the said parish church and took and carried away the said quere and register, of which they were indicted by the body of the shire, and which things so taken the said Porte, etc., detain and convert to their own use. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said John Porte, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the said riots and other evil acts.

The answer of John Porte and Thomas Sherat of Ilom.

The said bill of complaint is craftily devised to vex the said defendants. As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. Further, the

said John Porte is lord of the manor of Ilam, and also parson in parsone (*sic!*) of the church and parsonage thereof. For that the said desk or one side of the "quere" was erected not like the other side and so high to the glass window as that dogs continually climbed up thereby to the same glass windows and broke the same, by reason whereof the same John as parson was and yet is charged to make the same window again, therefore, to the intent that he would make the same side uniform with the other for the minister to serve in without being cumbered with any other of the parish there kneeling, he the said John Porte himself, removed the said desk or one side of the "quere," the said Thomas Sherat being the "thrudborowe"[1] standing by without doing anything. As to the taking from thence the chest and register inclosed in the same, the said defendants say that in the same chancel behind the high altar was a certain range with a little "aumburye" a foot and a half broad, pinned to the said range, behind which the priests have been accustomed to set alestands and such other vessels, and for that the said John Porte would not suffer such unseemly things to remain in the said chancel, he quietly took away the same, all which proceedings the heads of the said parish as well as a justice of the peace, a parishoner there, as also all others but the said Walkers their tenants and adherents who daily molest the said John Porte without ground, have allowed, without being offended therewith without that; there was never a "coofer" locked in the said church, or book provided for registering marriages, or christenings, and such like, according to the injunctions of Henry VIII., for which slackness as well of the Vicar as the parishoners there, the said John Porte has often blamed them and cannot yet obtain amendment. The said George Walker, being a common juror in the said shire, at the time of the indictment presented, being confederate with others of the same inquest, unjustly to vex the said John Porte and other defendants most unlawfully procured the same so to be found. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

The replication of John Goodwyn, etc.

They say as they before said in their bill of complaint. [*Traverse the whole of the answer.*]

[1] Thridborough, headborough or chief of the frank-pledge.

CAWERDEN *v.* CAWERDEN.

Bundle 1, No. 50.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

Your orator Geyffrey Cawerden, gentleman, the younger son of Robert [1551] Cawerden esquire, deceased, and Helen his wife. Whereas the said Robert and Helen were seised of one close called Parkeland otherwise Parke Haye in Rydware Maveson, co. Stafford, containing 30 acres, and of a meadow called Lyttell Brodeholme in Maveson Rydware aforesaid, containing 20 acres, and by their deed dated 16th February, 36 Henry VIII. (1545) demised to your orator all the premises. To have and hold the same Parkeland to Geoffrey and his assigns, from the feast of the Annunciation 1547 for 21 years and the said meadow from the feast of the Purification 1546, for 21 years, paying therefor to the said Robert and Helen and their heirs 27*s.* 4*d.* yearly for the said pasture, and for the said meadow 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly, by force whereof your subject entered into the premises and was thereof possessed accordingly; until 5th July in the present 5th year of your reign (1551), at which day David Cawerden, Richard Cawerden, Alen Aston, Richard Asteley, Richard Trafford, Robert Alen, Hugh Lovatt entered the said meadow and riotously with force and arms made assault on your subject and John Oldfeld his servant, then and there carrying a load of hay of your subject, and would not suffer your subject or his servant to have any hay from the said meadow. Therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to the said David Cawerden, etc., commanding them to appear to make answer to the premises.

HEATH *v.* LEES.

Bundle 2, No. 72.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Lawrence Hethe, brother and heir of Richard Hethe, [1551] deceased. Whereas the said Richard, 30 Henry VIII., and 10 years following was lunatic, and married to Isabel, daughter of Roger Lees, and was seised of 4 messuages, 100 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, 40 acres of heath and 30 acres of moor, in Wodford, Marchington, Uttoxator, and Clyston, co. Staff.; and the said Roger Lees had the custody of the said Richard Hethe, so lunatic, and seised of the premises, and took the profits thereof, and the same, so lunatic and seised, Michaelmas, 37 Henry VIII., without

anything paid to the said Richard for the same, levied a fine of the premises to the use of Richard and his heirs, to the said Roger, by force whereof the said Roger was thereof seised. By the statute of uses, 27 Henry VIII., the same Richard was thereof seised to the use of him and his heirs and so died seised, after whose death the premises descended to your said subject, as brother and next heir of Richard, and lawfully entered the same and was thereof peacefully seised until 23rd January in the 4th year of your reign, on which day Roger Lees of Wotton, co. Staff., yeoman, with Walter Lees of the same, John Florens, Randall Thorn, Humfrey Sharwyn, William Benteley, Richard Walker, Robert Corden, John Sakerston, John Wolfe, Richard Spycer, Humfrey Phillip, Thomas Bolton, Hugh Hond, John Hond, William Horner, Richard Sharwyn, Richard Horsely, Roger Dowly, Henry Ball and others, with force and arms riotously entered into the premises at Wodford in the parish of Uttoxatar, the same Randall [*sic*] then and there being in the premises, and made assault and wounded him with a dagger which the said John Florens held and gave him his mortal "plage"; whereof the same Randall within a fortnight, at Dowbridge, co. Derby, died, and so the said John Florens murdered the said Randall, of which murder the said John and others of the said defendants are indicted before William Cookes, coroner in co. Derby, upon the view of the body of the said Randall Woodward. So it is that Walter Lees was present at the doing of the said murder, and was also indicted thereof before the coroner by the verdict of 12 men. Nevertheless the said coroner being corrupted with great reward and by request of the great friends of the same Walter Lees, after the said verdict given, struck out of the verdict aforesaid the name of the said Walter Lees, who is so greatly born that your subject dare not enter into the premises for danger of his life, for the said Roger Lees and Walter Lees with other riotous persons yet keep possession of the premises with guns, bows and other great force; and the same Walter Lees is so evilly disposed that he commanded the said riotous persons that if they found one Nicholas Lee or your said subject they should kill them and whereas every one should have a noble for his labour if they killed the same Nicholas or [if] your subject they should have a pound. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant to your said subject your writ of *subpena* directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

BOWES *v.* BLACKSHAW.

Bundle 6, No. 4.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject John Bowes, esquire, was possessed of and in one [1551] messuage called Harvesthinge and of — acres of land, meadow, pasture, and wood in Okeley, co. Stafford, and so seised Randulphe Blackeshowe, Richard Peers and others, by the commandment of Richard Hudleston, esquire, committed divers trespasses upon the premises whereupon your orator pursued several "*latytates*" out of the King's Bench at Westminster, directed to the sheriff of the said county, to arrest the said Randulphe, Richard and others, whereupon the sheriff awarded forth his several precepts to his bailiffs to execute the said process. Forasmuch the said bailiffs knew not the said persons, your orator caused William Turner and William Cobstacke his servants to go with the bailiffs, 12th May last, to Elforde, co. Staff., to declare to the said bailiffs the persons they should arrest, at which time Peter Fofym, Richard Peers, George Robynson, Richard Berye, John Egeley, Edward Clarke sonne, Thomas Robynson [*sic*], with others, by the commandment of the said Richard Hudleston, in riotous manner made assault upon the said William Turner and William Cobstacke, and disobeyed the said bailiffs who came to execute the King's process. The said Richard Hudleston, being at Elforde, in a great rage commanded the said riotous persons to break the heads of the said William Turner and William Cobstacke, and put them in fear of their lives. In consideration whereof may it like your highness to direct your writs of *subpena* to the said Peter Fofyn, etc., commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

[*Endorsed.*] The quindene of St. Michael, 5 Edward VI.

WARNER *v.* BABINGTON, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 239.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your orator Henry Warner. Whereas one George Vernon, knight, [1550-2] and Dame Margaret his wife was seised of one estate of inheritance in one parcel of meadow containing 7 acres in *Tymmore*, co. Stafford, in a meadow called *Gorseholme* 31st December, 2 Henry VIII. [1510], by their deed, granted the same to your said subject for term of years yet enduring, by force whereof your said subject was seised of the premises. So it is, that one Joyce Babyngton of Tymmore, wife

of Anthony Babyngton of Tymmore, gentleman, Geffrey Gryce late of Stafford, yeoman, Randall Grene of Tymmore, husbandman, Edward Stamford late of Pakynton, gentleman, Margaret Bradbury late of Tymmore, spinster, and John Low of Pakynton, with other persons to the number of 12, 12th July last at Tymmore riotously assembled in the said meadow and made assault on your said subject and on John Johnson underbailiff of your hundred of Offlowe who came thither to serve a precept of warrant of "*goodabeyryng*" upon Anthony, Joyse and divers others, and set on them the great mastiff which chased their horses to the mansion house of the said Anthony at Tymmore, where the said riotous persons took a bottle of claret wine from the saddle bowl of your said servant and kept the horses bridled two days, and sent 5 or 6 riotous persons after your said orator and said underbailiff to beat or kill them, by reason whereof, to save themselves they waded over the River Tame. And Anthony Joyse and his wife Mary, daughter of William Blackeburne of Stafford, yeoman, Geffrey Gryse, Henry Draper, yeoman, Richard Gryce late of Tymmore, labourer, and Randall Grene 10th July last entered the said meadow at Tymmore and trod down and consumed the grass there, to the undoing of your subject. Please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Anthony, Joyse his wife, etc., to appear before you to answer to the premises.

Interrogatories on the part of the plaintiff.

1. Whether Sir George Vernon and his wife are seised of a parcel of meadow in the meadow called Gorseholme, in Tymmore, or not, and by what estate?

2. Whether they have declared a lease thereof to the plaintiff to any of you?

3. Whether the said defendants entered the said meadow, 11 July last, and with what weapons?

4. Whether they made assault on the plaintiff and John Johnson, underbailiff of Offelowe Hundred, or not?

5. Whether John Johnson declared to the said Geffrey that he came to serve a warrant of goodabeyryng on the said Anthony and Joyce, and others, and charged them to keep the peace?

6. Whether the said Geoffrey afterwards said to the under-bailiff that he should be beaten?

7. Whether the said Geoffrey then struck the under-bailiff?

8. Whether the defendants set the mastiff dog at the plaintiff and underbailiff?

9. Whether they did the same by command of Joyce or Anthony or not?

10. Whether they chased the horses of the plaintiff and underbailiff, and detained them and would not deliver them, notwithstanding replevy sued for the same?

11. What riotous persons were then assembled at Tymmore?

12. Whether the said persons took a bottle of wine of the plaintiff, and who took it?

13. Whether the said Joyce sent persons after the plaintiff and underbailiff to beat or kill them?

14. Whether the said persons pursued them and what were their names?

[And other interrogatories concerning the plaintiff's bill.]

Item, whether the plaintiff did submit himself to stand by the order of the Right Honourable Viscount Hereford[1] in the answer mentioned, or not?

Item, whether the said Viscount did not threaten the plaintiff that if he would not abide by his order concerning the hay taken off the premises, that he would send him to prison?

Item, whether the plaintiff did not then declare that if the said parcel of meadow were not "mearyd" out and a way appointed to him, to and from the same, and the said Anthony permit him to occupy the same, that he would not submit himself to any such order?

Item, whether a day was not fixed for "mearyng" the same, and whether Humphrey Welles came to Tymmore for "mearyng" the same, or not?

Item, whether the said Anthony sent to his friends from London that they should be bound for him, if Sir George Vernon would also be bound to him, or not? And whether they refused so to be bound?

Item, whether the said Anthony declared to Joyce anything of the *subpena* served on him?

Item, whether the plaintiff declared he would not submit himself to any order mentioned in the said answer except he had the consent of Sir George Vernon, his landlord, or not?

Richard Dyry of Whitington, co. Stafford, labourer, sworn, etc.

To the 1st and 2nd he knows nothing.

To the 3rd, and the residue of these interrogatories to the 16th he saith he was not present at anything contained therein, and denies the same to be true.

[1] Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers, was created Viscount Hereford, 2 February, 1549–1550, and died 1558 at Chartley Castle.

He saith that he, William Blackbone, and others about the time articled made hay on the meadow called Gosholme by command of the said Anthony Babington, and to his use.

To the residue of these interrogatories concerning any order made by the Viscount of Hereford he cannot depose anything.

[*Endorsed.*] The quindene of Hillary.

BABYNGTON *v.* COLYNS, ETC.

Bundle 3, No. 65.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1547–53] Your daily orator Anthony Babington of Timmore, co. Stafford, is lawfully seised of estate of inheritance descended to him from his ancestors of the *manor of Tymmore* with the appurtenances, which has been in the possession of your orator and his ancestors without interruption for 200 years and more. So it is that 2nd January last William Collyns of Fissherwike, co. Staff., husbandman, Thomas Bolly, mason, Christopher Hansacre, husbandman, Thomas Collyns, labourer, William Morrice, labourer, Edmund Hansacre, husbandman, Robert Grinley, husbandman, Robert Whatlay, husbandman, and John Grinlay, husbandman, all of Fissherwike with other evil-disposed persons, unlawfully assembling at Fissherwike came to the closes of your orator called Williams Breche, Gorstie Leys, Asshcroft, Highlease, Nedergrounde, Abbotts Medow, and Stubby Lee in Tymmore, and there with force and arms riotously broke the rails, hedges, and gates there and depastured the said closes with their cattle. In consideration whereof please your majesty to grant your writ of injunction to be directed to the said riotous persons, commanding them to suffer your orator peaceably to have his possession of the premises, and to appear to answer to the premises, etc.

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v. A JURY OF LICHFIELD.

Bundle 7, No. 76.

[*c.* 1551–3] *The answer of John Pyllysworthe, Rowlonde Orme, William Corpsone, Thomas Sabe, John Jolle, Nicholas Jackson, Gilbert Barker, Nicholas Milner, William Fowler, George Uttynge and Thomas Pennell.*

The said Rowlande Orme and William Fowler do, and at the time of the said verdict did, dwell two miles out of the city of Lichfield, and never dwelt there, and the rest of the defendants do and at the time of the making of the said verdict did dwell within the said town. The said Harry Olyver was indicted in the said town, before the coroner there,

for murdering the said John Wescote,[1] and was arraigned before the Bailiff and Recorder of the town at the said gaol delivery held within the said city, whereunto he pleaded not guilty, which they know to be true because the said indictment was read to them when they with the said Raufe Bagnolde were sworn to try the said Harry. At the time of the said gaol delivery they came to the place where it was held not thinking to be sworn to try the said Harry, and they with the said Raufe Bagnolde were sworn before the said justices to try the said Harry. Proclamation was made that if any man would give evidence against the same prisoner that he should come forth and be heard, but notwithstanding, no man came to give any evidence, and so the said defendants with Raufe Bagnolde went to commune together of their verdict, and as they were going from the bar one said that he could give evidence concerning the same matter. The Recorder of the town asked him if he was not of another jury for life and death and he said "Yes," so he could not be sworn to give any evidence. Therefore the said defendants had no evidences given them to find the said Harry guilty, they made their verdict plainly without favour and found the said Harry not guilty of the said murder. Without that that they were corrupted by John Ferrers and William Wescote and other their friends to acquit the said Harry, or that they had knowledge themselves how the said murder was committed, or that they found their verdict contrary to their conscience and knowledge.

Interrogatories, etc.

William Corpson, of Lichfield, "spurryer," examined 3rd July, etc.

To the 1st and 2nd interrogatories says that John Wescot was slain in the open street at Lichfield on Ash Wednesday last, being fair day there, and by common report Harry Olyver killed the said Wescot and was indicted for the same, but how many times, he knew not.

To the 3rd and 4th. He denies that any labour was made to him to be of the inquest on the trial of the said Harry, nor any sum of money given to him or promised, by any person, to be favourable to the said Harry Olyver at his arraignment.

To the 5th. The said Wescote was "slayne in deed." And no other person but Harry Olyver was accused of his death, and therefore he thinks the said Harry Olyver killed him, but how he knows not, nor had any evidence given thereof.

[1] If these were Westcotes of Ridware, then Erdeswick says they descended from Nicholas, brother of Thomas Westcote, *alias* Littleton, the famous lawyer. A William Westcote, Esq., with a son John occurs in 1551, settling lands in Handsacre and Armitage. (W. F. C.)

Thomas Sabe of Lichfield aforesaid says [*as above*].

Gilbert Barker of Lichfield, tailor, says [*as above*].

George Uttyng of Lichfield, capper, says [*as above*].

John Joll of Lichfield aforesaid, says [*as above*]. John Dymocke commanded him in the sheriff's name to come to the hall, and said he might happen to be of a jury, but many must be warned, whereof he and some shall be refused. So he departed without any more words. He denies any labour by any person to bear his good will to Henry Olyver.

Nycholas Myller of Lichfield, says [*as above*]. He could not in conscience find the said Harry guilty of the said murder upon common report, without certain evidence thereof, which was not given to the jury.

BRADHED *v.* WYTTERYNG, ETC.

Bundle 5, No. 30.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

[1552] Your subject John Bradhed of Over Tene, co. Staff., was seised of a pasture called Stewarde Flatte in Over Tene, and peaceably took the profits thereof until 1st April in the 6th year of your reign, John Wytteryng late of Over Tene, yeoman, Henry More, Robert Mylward, Thomas Tydlour, Robert Wylde and Humfrey Smythe, at Over Tene aforesaid, with other riotous persons unlawfully assembled, with force and arms, and broke and entered the said pasture and, your subject then being there, beat and evilly treated him and so threatened him that he was and yet is in fear of his life, and dare not come to the said close. Also the said persons cut down and destroyed 40 oaks, 60 ashes, and other woods and underwoods there growing, to the value of £5. Therefore please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said John Wyttering, etc., commanding them to appear before you to make answer to the premises.

The answer of Robert Mylward.

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., he is not guilty. The plaintiff, 7 years past was amongst other things seised of 2 closes in Over Tene in the parish of Checkeley, called Stywardflatt, the premises in the said bill mentioned being parcel of the said two closes, and 31st March, 37 Henry VIII., in consideration of a sum of money paid to the plaintiff beforehand, the said plaintiff and Humfrey Brodehed, his son and heir apparent, granted to the said defendant the said two closes. To have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever.

Thereupon the plaintiff delivered seisin of the premises to the said defendant who was and is thereof accordingly seised and takes the profits thereof. About 1st April last the said defendant sent Henry More, Thomas Tytterton and Robert Wyld to the said two closes to enclose the same they taking with them a hedging bill and a hatchet, and they doing there labour there, the said plaintiff came with his daughter who had a great number of stones in her apron, and assaulted them, and John Wytteryng being in the company of the said labourers had a broken head of the plaintiff. Within half an hour after came Humphrey Brodehed and assisted his father and sister in riotous manner, and for the avoiding of further bloodshed the said More took the weapon from the said Humfrey and thereupon the said More and his fellows departed. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

The answer of Henry More.

Says [*as in above answer*]. The said Robert Mylward about the time specified in the bill of complaint sent the said defendant, Thomas Tytterton and Robert Wyld then aged 14 years, to hedge about part of the premises, etc. [*As above.*]

GRYMES *v.* HALL

Bundle 5, No. 47.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your daily orator John Grymes,[1] citizen and clothworker of London. [1552] Whereas the late King Henry VIII. was seised of the manors of Wetton and Butterton, co. Staff., and for a certain sum of money, by his letters patent dated 30th June in the 38th year of his reign, granted the said manors amongst other things to your subject and his heirs for ever. So it is that your subject so being of the said manors seised, 20th June last, in the 6th year of your reign, William Hall of Wetton, husbandman, William Bagshaw of the same, husbandman, Edward Bagshaw, husbandman, Richard Byrche, husbandman, Richard Harvey, husbandman, Rauffe Crychelowe, husbandman, Thomas Cantrell, husbandman, James Cantrell, husbandman, William Toratte, husbandman, William Went, husbandman, William Halle the younger, husbandman, William Busshope, Thomas Woodwarde, Richard West, Christopher Byrch, Richard Poyzes, Nicholas Goodenaud, John Tare, husbandmen, all of the same town, with others, riotously assembled at Wetton in a piece of land of your subject's called Beistone (Beeston), parcel of the manor of Wetton, and conspired together to overturn a stone wall and

[1] See Inq. p.m. on John Crimes, 2 Philip and Mary.

hedge which environ the said pasture and woods called Grene Beistone, which is the pasture of your subject, and which he and all those whose estate he has in the said manor of Wetton time out of mind have quietly held, in severalty: after which conspiracy and many threatening words given by the said persons to the wife of your subject, and Henry Grymes his son, the said persons departed for that time. After, 21st of the said month of June, the said William Halle, etc., and one John Clerke, riotously assembled at Wetton, in the said pasture and woods, and overturned the stone wall and hedge of your subject environing the same, and drove in a great number of beasts and cattle of the said riotous persons, which cattle wholly ate up all the "grace pasture and yongesprynge" of the woods there growing and would not suffer your subject's wife nor servant to drive out the said cattle. Further, on the said 20th and 21st days of June and since, the said persons have threatened to kill Mary, the wife of your subject, and Henry Crymes [*sic*] his son, and cast down the mansion house of your subject, and have assaulted the said Mary and Henry, and put them in fear of their lives wherefore they were compelled to complain to Lord Ferrers of Chartley, Lieutenant of co. Stafford, who called certain of the said persons before him, and took order with them for the conservation of your peace. Notwithstanding your subject has caused certain indictments to be made against the persons aforesaid to have them indicted of the said offences in co. Stafford, yet by means of the great friendship which they have in the said county, your subject cannot get them indicted there. In consideration whereof, please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to be directed to them, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises.

The answer of William Hall, Richard Byrche, Edward Bagshawe, William Wynt,[1] *and Ralf Wodward.*

The said bill of complaint is untrue, etc. As to any riot, etc., they are not guilty. On the 20th and 21st day of June mentioned, and a long time before, the said William Hall, Isabel his wife, and William his son, were seised of a mease and certain lands now in the occupation of the said William Hall, in Wetton, containing 40 acres, as of freehold after the custom of the manor of Wetton, for term of their lives, and held the same of the lords of the said manor, paying therefor the usual rents, and the said Richard Byrche and Agnes his wife were in like

[1] The *D.N.B.* says that the father of Peter de Wint, the water-colour painter, was of Dutch extraction. He was a doctor at Stone, and it is possible that he assumed both the "de" and his Dutch extraction.

manner seised of another mease with 56 acres of land commonly occupied with the same, and Edward Bagshawe and Johanne his wife and John his son were in like manner seised of another mease and of 47 acres of land commonly leased with the same, in Wetton, and William Wynt in like manner was seised of another mease and 26 acres of land commonly used to be occupied with the same, in Wetton, and Rauf Woodward and Margaret his wife and Thomas his son were in like manner seised of another mease and 36 or 38 acres of land in Wetton aforesaid, which several leases were made by the Prior of Tutbury,[1] co. Staff., then lord of the said manor, by several copies of Court Rolls which so made to the said defendants their wives and sons, are ready to be shown; and which said meases and lands are, and, during the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, have been parcel of the said manor and demised by the lords of the said manor for the time being, and their stewards for term of lives by copy of Court Roll. The said land and wood called Greene Beyston, time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, was not enclosed, but lying open, wherein the said defendants and all other tenants of the said meases and tenants within the said manor have at all times in the year had pasture for all their beasts, as parcel of their farms. Forasmuch as the same ground called Grene Beyston was not enclosed whereby divers cattle of the inhabitants of other towns escaped into the same and destroyed much of the grass, the plaintiff within a short time after he purchased the manor of the late King Henry VIII., persuaded the inhabitants within the said manor that if they would enclose the said ground they should have much more profit thereof, than to suffer it to lie open and strangers to take the profit thereof, and that he being lord of the manor was content they so should do. Thereupon the said defendants and other tenants of the manor, about 5 years past, caused the same ground to be enclosed with a stone wall and after used the same with their cattle as before. On the said 20th and 21st days of June they drove their beasts there as they were daily used to do at which time Henry Crymes, John Cope, chaplain, Edward Burton, John Frencheman, and Raut Ford as servants of the plaintiff being prepared with swords, etc., would have fought with the defendants, but they in safeguard of the peace peaceably suffered the said servants to chase the said beasts of the said defendants from the said ground. Forasmuch as the plaintiff divers times put his beasts there to eat up the grass and suffered no other to

[1] This is another example of the frequency with which abbots and priors, immediately previous to the dissolution of their monasteries, granted long leases of their lands to lay persons.

common there, the said defendants and other tenants of the said manor caused the beasts of the plaintiff to be put out of the said ground, as was lawful for them to do. [*Traverse the rest of the bill.*]

Bundle 8, No. 1.

Interrogatories to be ministered on behalf of John Crymes plaintiff against William Hall and Richard Byrche of Wetton, co. Stafford, and other defendants.

1. Do you know what persons plucked down a certain enclosure about a wood of the said John Crymes in Wetton, and what weapons had they?

2. When and by whose procurement was it done?

3. Do you know that the said Hall and Byrche and other tenants of John Crymes have a common purse among them to maintain their lewd doings against the said Crymes?

4. Do you know that they have bound themselves to stick to each other against him, and that none shall agree with him without the others consent[1]?

5. Was not the enclosure pulled down by the common consent of all of them?

6. Were they agreed upon gathering the said money before the casting down of the said enclosure?

7. Do you know any woods or great trees about the bounds of the town, and what are their names and when were they cut down?

8. Have the said persons ever assembled in riotous manner of a rebellion, and what weapons had they, and who were they?

Examinations made 1st February, 7 Edward VI. (1553). John Porte of Ilam, co. Staff., aged 40 years, sworn, etc., says that at Christmas last he met Richard Byrche and other tenants of the plaintiff at the mansion house of Mr. Meverell, and asked them how they had sped in their suit with their landlord in London. They answered "Very well," and he added that some among them would not stick to them, and that Wynche was one of them. The same day the deponent asked Wynche the cause that his neighbours disliked him and he answered that it was because he would not contribute to the charges of their suit against the plaintiff, but that he had delivered to them 40*s.* for his part towards the suit between their landlord and Mr. Hall, and that if they made account of that to him, he would then bear charges with them.

In August last he communed with Bagshaw's wife, one of the tenants, and advised her to cause her husband to agree with his landlord touching

[1] An early sign of a Land League or Trades Union.

the said suits, saying, "The end will be that the truth will appear therein and you will shrink from each other. Your landlord has offered you reason." She answered that they were bound in writing to each other, and cannot shrink from each other.

There are 3 great ash trees within the bounds of the same town, cut down by Richard Byrche and one Torrold, and it was done in the day time. He has seen divers of the tenants assembled, 6 or 7 at once, railing against the plaintiff and his wife, but does not remember their names, except Hall's sons.

OLCOTT *v.* NODEN.

Bundle 2, No. 40.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your subject Richard Olcot of Bignall End in the parish of Audeley, [1552] co. Stafford, is and for divers years has been possessed of one mease and certain lands and tenements containing 32 acres of land, etc., in Bignall, as tenant for a certain term of years to Randulph Legh gentleman and Johanne his wife. So it is that Thomas Wright, late of Madeley, co. Staff., William Noden of Oneley, co. Salop, and William Pynner of the same with others, October, in the 6th year of your reign (1552) riotously assembled at Bignall, and with force and arms made assault upon your subject, at the plough travailing for his living, and on one of his servants then driving the plough, and so pursued him that he was enforced to leave his team of oxen and the plough. The said Thomas Wright, William Pynner, etc., not contented herewith then and there unyoked the said oxen and took and drove away the same to the castle of Heyley, co. Stafford, and caused the same to be kept there. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to the said Thomas, etc., commanding them to appear to answer hereunto, etc.

The answer of William Noden.

The said bill is uncertain, etc. The said Randulph minding to trouble the said defendant to put him to extreme cost devised the said bill, and wrongfully has sued forth a process against the said defendant, where in very deed the said Olcot was never agreeing to the making of any such bill of complaint, but clearly denies the same, and affirming that he has no cause whereupon to complain against the said defendant. As to the riot, unlawful assembly, etc., he is not guilty. As to the residue of the matters in the said bill, the said defendant says that he

as servant of Elizabeth Clayton, widow, 6th October last, peaceably distrained 4 oxen of the said Olcott at Bygnalend upon the inheritance customary of the said Elizabeth for rent due by the same Olcott, to the taking of which distress the said Olcott agreed. [*Traverses the rest of the bill.*]

MYDELMORE *v.* CRESSWELL, ETC.

Bundle 3, No. 17.

To the King our Sovereign Lord.

[1552] Your orators Robert Mydelemore esquire, and Margery his wife, Richard Levesonne, Walter Levesone, and Edward Levesone, esquires, executors of the last will of James Levesone, deceased.[1] Whereas John Thynne, esquire, Prebendary of the Prebend of Featherstone, within the Deanery of Wolverhampton, co. Stafford, in consideration of divers sums of money paid to him by James Levesone, by his deed dated 20th March, 33 Henry VIII., granted and to farm let to the said James, the said Prebend with all glebelands, tithes, rents, etc., to the aid Prebend belonging. To have and to hold for 21 years then next following, paying therefor yearly to the said John Thynne and his successors a certain rent, since the making of which lease the said James made his executrix the said Margery his wife, and the said Richard, Walter and Edward, and died. After whose death they entered into the said glebelands etc., and have taken the profits thereof for 4 years now last past. Now of late William Cresswell, a man of evil disposition, and other light disposed persons, Rouland Whytbroke, John Harwell, Anthony Gybsone, Homfrey Moseley, Thomas Newton, William Hill, William Setterford, John Millis, John Wood, John Rouland, William Bate, Raffe Waynewryght, Homfrey Hope and Agnes Harwell, and others, about 7th March last in the 6th year of your reign assembled at Wolverhampton, and the said William, Rouland, and others with force and arms broke down the doors and entered a barn of your orators where your orators had laid their corn and tithes, etc., of their Prebend, and took and carried away all the said corn there to the value of 10*l.* Notwithstanding that the said William, Rouland, and others are indicted for the same riot, etc., at the sessions held at Wolverhampton, 7th April in the 7th year of your reign yet the said William Cresswell has not "let" to say that he would do the said unlawful act again. In consideration whereof please your highness to grant your writs of *subpena* to the said William, Rouland, and others, commanding them to appear to answer to the premises, etc.

[1] See Chart Pedigree, p. 34 *a*.

BOUGHEY *v.* TUCHET.

Bundle 5, No. 25.

To the King our sovereign Lord.

Your poor subject John Boughey. Whereas John Tuchet, Lord of [1553] Awdeley and Heyley, by name of John Awdeley, Lord of Awdeley, by his deed dated 10th September, in the 4th year of your reign (1550), for the good services of Thomas Boughey, father to your said subject, lately deceased, done to the said Lord Awdeley, and for that the said Thomas gave to the said Lord Awdeley and his heirs a wood in the lordship of Awdeley, called Foxley, of the yearly value of 5 marks, and the wood growing there was worth £40, granted to your said subject and the said Thomas, the officer of portership of Heley Castle, co. Stafford, for their lives, and for exercising the said office, *2d.* every day during the said term, payable yearly. And if it fortuned the said rent to be unpaid that then it should be lawful for the said Thomas and your subject to distrain in any part of the lordship aforesaid, for the said rent. After the said Thomas died, the entire rent came, and of right ought to come to your orator. So it is that your subject about half a year past, for the said rent being behind for 2 years since the decease of the said Thomas, distrained certain beasts of John Bolton in the said lordship, and impounded them till George Tuchet, esquire, with Robert Chancellor, Richard Devely, Edward Hall, Roger Willoes, Lawrence Hancoke and others riotously made assault on your subject, and would have slain him had he not conveyed himself into a house, and the said George Tuchet took and drove the said beasts out of the pound. Forasmuch as your orator is a poor man and not able to sue your laws by the course of the Common Law, please your grace to direct your writ of *subpena* to the said George, commanding him to appear before your Council in the Star Chamber to answer hereunto.

Here follow various suits misplaced.

THE REPORT OF A ROYAL COMMISSION.

Bundle 26, No. 159.

The certificate of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, knight, Philip Draycott, [1522-
esquire,[1] *Edward Lytylton, esquire, and other the King's commis-* 35]
sioners, in co. Stafford, concerning the search for corn and other articles expressed in the same commission.

[1] Fitzherbert was knighted in 1522 and died in 1538. Philip Draycot succeeded in 1522 and was knighted in or before 1535.

The said commissioners have searched all the barns, garners, etc., and find no corn there sufficient to sustain the people inhabiting the said shire, except they may have their bargains made with other persons in other shires to be kept with them, and to have resort to other shires to fetch corn thence with horses as afore time has been used. Wherefore they think other shires should not be restrained to sell their corn to them for their necessary sustenance and living.

As concerning beggars and vagabonds, the commissioners have searched and caused to be searched, towns and villages by night divers times, and have found almost none, so that they be avoided and gone forth [out] of the shire, but divers they took for suspicions of felony, who remain in gaol there, for that the gaol deliverance could not be made because there was but one justice of the Queen[1] there, where the commission was there should be two of the *quorum*.

They have ordered the towns and villages how many alehouses shall be kept, in one town, and who shall keep them, according to the said commission, and since the same commission proclaimed the unlawful "gaunnes" be laid down and not used.

The said commissioners can find no ingrossers, forestallers or "regrators" of corn, but such as have corn are willing to bring to the market as yet.

UNWYN *v.* ROWLEY.

Bundle 20, No. 258.

The replication of William Unwyn, gentleman, to the answers of James Rowley of Ranescliffe, James Rowley of Alcott (Olcott), and Richard Smyth, defendants.

[*After* 1571] Maintains his bill of complaint and everything therein, to be true. Without that that he commenced this suit against the defendants for any lewd purpose as in their answer is alleged. He says that Trinity last he exhibited the said bill in this court for their unlawful conspiracies, and afterwards procured a *latitat* of her majesty's bench at Westminster against James Rowley[2] of Olcott, who thereupon by his friends sought for an agreement between this plaintiff and him, and the complainant agreed to compromise. Nevertheless this agreement being had, Michaelmas last, the said James Rowley being at London, Hillary last, joined in answer with the other defendants, although he was not served with any process so to do.

[1] I cannot explain "Queen" and think it must be "quorum" or "crown."

[2] Wm. Unwyn was of Chatterley in the 1583 Visitation. The will of James Rowley, the elder, dated 1568, and proved at Lichfield 1572, was witnessed by James Rowley, the younger. (W. F. C.)

Concerning the causes of suit against James Rowley of Ranescliffe, he says the defendants have conspired to trouble this plaintiff in his title to parcels of his inheritance, and have reported that this plaintiff and Geoffrey Rowley of Wedgewood[1] forged a court roll and brought it to Rauffe Sneyde, esquire,[2] whereby the said James Rowley of Ranescliffe was like to lose a messuage and 17 acres of copyhold lands, in *Ranescliff*.

All which matter this plaintiff is ready to prove.

BULLEYN *v.* GRAVESEND.

Bundle 24, No. 328.

Interrogatories ministered on behalf of George Bulleyn[3] *against Stephen Gravesende and David ap Thomas.*

1. Do you know that Doctor Bencon had from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield divers grants of the Chancellor's office of that diocese, for term of life? [*After* 1576]

2. Do you know that the Chancellor of the diocese may sit in the Consistory, especially upon the usual court days?

3. Do you know that all ordinary courts appointed for the public execution of justice are free for any of the Queen's subjects to repair to and depart thence at their [*sic*] leisure, and that the Consistory in the church of Lichfield has been so used, until 25th September last?

4. Did any of you watch the Consistory doors, how long, and who first "brake" with you about the matter, and moved you to go to the Bishop?

5. Have you heard any say that Doctor Bencon should never execute the office of Chancellor, and have you heard of any new or late appointing Mr. Babington[4] to be the Bishop's sole Chancellor? Have any, any benefit out of the said office?

6. Were you appointed to keep out Doctor [Bencon] by force, and did you know he was admitted residenciary in the church of Lichfield, and therefore a justice of the peace in that close, by the Queen's charter?

7. Did you not, knowing the premises, shut the Consistory doors against Doctor Bencon, and keep him out by force?

[1] Geof. Rowley of Wedgwood, the elder, in his will, dated 1561, and proved at Lichfield 1572, makes Geof. Rowley, "my godson," his executor. (W. F. C.)

[2] Ralph Sneyd succeeded his father, Sir Wm. Sneyd, in 1571.

[3] Geo. Boleyn, probably son of Viscount Rochford. He was Dean of Lichfield, 1576, died 1603. See *D.N.B.*

[4] Zachary Babington was Chancellor of Lichfield in 1603.

8. Had Doctor Bencon any there but his servant Thomas Beacon, and without weapon? When Mr. Babington was slipped into the Consistory doors did John Gnosall press to the door and keep him out? Were the doors open more than once until Richard Cole was called in?

9. Did you hear Doctor Bulleyne command them to keep the peace and not to abuse Doctor Bencon before the proclamation?

10. Did you know that the Court should be adjourned to the Palace, and whether David ap Thomas was appointed to keep everyone out of the Consistory until he first asked the Bishop or Babington's liking, or whether to keep out any specially noted to him?

PARAMORE *v.* ROBINSON, ETC.

Bundle 20, No. 399.

Interrogatories to be ministered on behalf of Richard Paramore, plaintiff, against Raphael Yardley, John Ensor, Raulffe Claybroke, George Smarte, Gregory Thompson, and John Keene, defendant.

[*c.* 1578[1]] 1. Whether do you know Richard Paramore and Thomas Robynson, late of Drayton Bassett, co. Stafford, esquire, or not?

2. Did you about the beginning of December last enter the chief house of the manor of *Drayton Basset*, and how many other persons were with you, and by whose appointment came they to the house, and were there any others, ready to assist you to expulse the servants of the house if need be, and what weapons had you?

3. Did you say to the said servants that if they would not go forth and suffer you to have possession of the house, you had 100 persons ready to assist you to pull them out?

4. Do you know that Henry Goodier, esquire, disburses your charges

[1] This suit may refer to the year 1578. Shortly after 1516 Drayton Basset, then in the King's hands, was granted, on a long lease probably, to George Robinson, a merchant. His son, William Robinson, succeeded him about 1530, and was followed in turn by his son, Thomas Robinson, defendant in this case. Loxdale tells us that this Robinson mortgaged or sold Drayton to Ric. Paramore, here plaintiff, who had much suit and trouble about it. "On the 4th October, 1578, Mr. Robinson's servants forcibly entered Drayton House, for which the Lord Stafford, Sir Ralph Egerton, Mr. Bagot, the sheriff, and 7,000 people, after they had beaten down part of it with cannon, obliged them on the 9th to surrender, and sent those that were found in it to Stafford Gaol." This compares favourably with the Sydney Street affair, but I suspect some exaggeration. Paramore afterwards parted with his interest to Robert Dudley, the famous Earl of Leicester. Leicester left it to his widow (widow also of the first and mother of the second Earl of Essex) who continued to occupy it for many decades.

and hopes to receive benefit by the said Robinson? And whether he does not disburse the expenses in law for you and the said Thomas Robinson, and what bargains are made between Robinson and Goodier touching any of the said lands and what profit is Goodyer promised for his pains?

5. Do you know what household stuff, goods, corn, etc., were in the chief house and in the barns, etc., belonging to the same, at the time of your entry, and what value were they?

6. Did you then take away any goods, household stuff, etc., grain, beasts, etc., belonging to the said manor, and to what value, and by whose commandment, and in whose custody do the same now remain? And whether any part thereof hath been sold, and by whose commandment?

7. Whether after you received the letters from the said Thomas Robinson whereof you made mention in your answers, you appointed any servants or tenants of the said Robinson to aid you in expulsing the servants of the plaintiff from the said house?

8. Did you, after you had expulsed the servants, bar the doors of the said house, and did the maidservant of the said plaintiff afterwards creep in at a window? And did you get into the chamber to fetch her out?

9. Did Thomas Robinson, or you by his commandment, convey away after your entry of the house of Henry Goodier, any silver plate which sometime was the said Robinson's, and did you sell the same?

10. Have you conveyed away from the said manor any malt or other grain and have you sold the same?

11. Did you or the said Robynson drive away any of the cattle upon the grounds of the said manor at the time of your said entry, which sometime were the said Robynson's, to be sold?

12. Did the said Thomas Robynson or any of you, sell the tithe corn in the parsonage barn of Awstrye?

13. Whether any of you have menaced or threatened any of the servants of the plaintiff and in what manner?

THE "LISTS AND INDEXES" OF RECORDS AT THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

BY THE HON. SECRETARY.

THE "LISTS AND INDEXES" OF RECORDS AT THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

THE local historian must make a very clear distinction between the two forms of publications printed by the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. The *Calendars*, of which the only generic description is that they are bound in various and varying tints of green cloth, leave a local explorer nothing more to do. With certain reservations as to the *Calendars of Inquisitions*, they are complete, and make superfluous, alike reference to the originals, or the existence of a county record printing society. But if the green *Calendars* are gradually working out, exhausting and putting into bald and accessible print some of the vast unknown mass at the Record Office, the *Lists and Indexes* are, as it were, driving test-borings into further undeveloped reserves, and opening up new strata for the work of the county society. They show one clearly that work, and what work, lies yet ahead for the William Salt Society to do.

There are now thirty-four folio volumes of these *Lists and Indexes*, they grow apace in number and yet keep up their interest. Not only are the abbreviated titles, which do duty for whole membranes of records, merely a whet to the appetite, instead of satisfying one for ever as do the green *Calendars*, but, in spite of the title, the notable feature of the *Lists and Indexes* is that they have generally no Index. To the ordinary archæologist, historian, genealogist or searcher they are useless; their real use is confined to a record society such as ours, which is guided and induced to calendar or transcribe, to print and index the unknown matter. We shall provide in this way material which throws a new and almost intimate light on local history

and on society in those obscure ages before the maiden aunts took to preserving the letters of their families, and sinecure-holders to writing diaries.

In the following reviews of these thirty-four volumes I have been careful to give, wherever necessary, average samples of the "goods" mentioned in the lists, transcribing the original MS. in full, and printing it sometimes as in the original and sometimes in English. My object in doing so has been, partly that readers may understand the whole meanings of terms, often not only archaic but conventional, such as the "Account" of such and such a "Minister," the "Petition" of such a town, the roll of a "Coroner," of an "Escheator," or a "Foreign" entry on the roll of the Pipe. The rental, the survey, the view, the extent and the feodary, all take a practical shape only when set out in full in an example. My further object in giving these samples was to show what might be expected from the complete publication of any class of these records, in so far as they relate to Staffordshire. Our members will be able to judge not only of their value but of their bulk for printing, and the action of the Society in selecting material for future work ought to be guided by what members who read these reviews and samples would choose to have. It will be seen, at least, that there is still a wider scope for the activities of the William Salt Society.

I. *Index of Ancient Petitions. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1892.

This is really an alphabetical Index pure and simple of the petitioners who sent in petitions addressed to the King or Council or Parliament or Chancellor, during the period 1200–1500. Many of these have been transcribed in connection with the publication of the Rolls of Parliament, and are dealt with in the thirty-fourth Report of the Deputy Keeper, 1873. Large additional discoveries have been made since then, and over 15,000 Petitions are here indexed. Unfortunately the Index gives no dates and simply refers the student to the bare number of a Roll which may lie anywhere in three centuries. During and after the time of Richard II. the Petitions to the Chancellor in his official capacity will, of course, be found among the documents called *Early Chancery Proceedings*.

Among distinctively Staffordshire petitioners we find over a dozen Audleys, chiefly of the fourteenth century, and a good representation of the Bassets and Staffords, though the latter seem to be rather of the fifteenth century period. A Richard Bagod of Stratton, and a Robert Bagot, preserve the Bagot name, and the Botilers of Wemme, Hugh Wrottesley, Nicholas Bradshaw, guide us to Staffordshire. All the monasteries are frequent petitioners, as are also the Burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the Commonalty of Stafford. The following are samples of these Ancient Petitions :—

Ancient Petitions, File 45. *No.* 2240.

A nostre seignur le Roi et a soun conseil monstre William de Estafford[1] ; qe sire Thomas de Furnyval le fitz luy a pris et luy d(*detains*) . . . en sonn chastel de Alueton (Alton) et le viscomte de Estafford seisi ses terres et ses beins et ses chateux, et il ne s . . . enchesoun de quei si il vous plest il prie la deliueraunce par sufficiaunte meynprise a respoundre . . . il luy plerra, les queux terres biens et chateux par le dit viscomte sount liuerez a . . .

[*Faded and torn.*]

[*Endorsed*]—Before the King.

Ancient Petitions, File 218. *No.* 10874.

[*Translation.*]

To our Lord the King pray his burgesses of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, that whereas they hold the said town and always have held of him and of his ancestors and of those to whom the said town has been assigned by the farm of 15 marks ; which farm is not specified in their charter ; may it please our Lord the King to confirm their charters, and to grant and specify that they can hold the said town for the said farm for ever by point of charter.

Item, that it may please our Lord the King to grant to the said burgesses that they be not put on inquests or on assizes with strangers for a thing outside (*ou foreins de chose forcine*), and that no stranger be put on inquests or assizes with them concerning anything that touches the said town or concerning a fact done in the said town, if the thing does not touch the King or his heirs or the commonalty of the said town.

[*Endorsed.*]—Before the King [Edward III.] Herlaston.

[1] William de Stafford of Sandon, etc., was confined in Alton Castle as a result of the battle of Boroughbridge in 1322. The "viscomte de Estafford" is of course the sheriff, not the Earl of Stafford.

Ancient Petitions, File 311. *No.* 15514.

A nostre seignur le Roi et a son conseil monstre Johane qe feust la femme Rauf Basset de Drayton qe comme ele . . . Alice qe feust la femme sire Henri de Beaumond par brief de dowere de la tiers partie del manoir de Leg . . . plee la dite Alice ad allegge qe nostre dit seignur le Roi dona meisme le manoir a lui et au dit sire Henri et a les heirs . . . corps engendrez, reservant a lui et a ses heirs la reuersion de meisme le manoir si qe en cas de dit Henri et Alice . . . (*die*) . . . sanz heir de lors corps issantz, et ad sur ce (*and further*) pree eide de nostre dit seignur le Roi par quoi les Justices ne voelent . . . (? *take it*) . . . en pleez sanz commandement nostre dit seignur le Roi, dont la dite Johane prie brief ad ditz Justices daler a (*to go to the*) manoir . . . qils la facent droit selonc leu de la terre (*the law of the land*), nient contre esteant lalegeance.

[*Decayed and illegible in some parts.*]

[*Endorsed.*]—Soit brief mande a les Justices qils aillent auant en plee et facent sur ceo final discussion.

II. *List and Index of Declared Accounts. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1893.

This list of the so-called "Declared" Accounts of each spending department is provided with a most useful index of names and subjects. They are the annual balance sheets, as it were, of each department and of every special item of expense; and the List shows the name of the accounting head of the Department or head of the expedition or what-not. The years covered extend from about 1558 to 1830. The practice of "declaring the accounts" before the Lord High Treasurer, and afterwards before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of having them audited, arose in the sixteenth century, but was not perfected or regularised till the middle of the seventeenth century, hence the early accounts are occasional and irregular.

We may learn even from this mere list of the accounts that John Chetwynde was Envoy to Turin in 1708–10, and arranged for the shipping of German and Italian troops from Italy to Spain; while William Chetwynde, his brother, was at the same time Envoy at Genoa, and helping in the same work, and expense. An earlier John Chetwynde was Master of the Horse in 1681 and 1682; and a later William Chetwynde, who became third

Viscount Chetwynde, accounted for the Mint during the quarter of the century he held, under all administrations, the lucrative post of Master of the Mint, 1744–1769. William Chetwynd also accounts for the pensions from 1718 to 1730.

In connection with the stables at Hampton Court, we find an R. Mynors, surveyor, accounting in 1661–2; and another H. Mynors is, as early as 1545–6, looking after the victualling of the Navy with beer. R. Wolseley has charge of Wine Licensing in 1680–2, and H. Audley is paymaster of the Forces in the Isle of Wight in 1597.

There are accounts from the Master of the Revels, and the Commissioners of Cards and Dice; of captives redeemed from Algiers, in 1653–1725; and of an indemnity to settlers on the evacuation of the Mosquito Coast in Honduras, in 1792. Lastly, in 1602–3 we find them auditing the "goods captured in a carrycke by Sir R. Leveson on the coast of Spain."

III. *List of State Papers. Pt. I. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1894.

This list furnishes references to the various volumes of State Papers of the Domestic Series to the end of George II., most of which have been fully set out now in the green calendars. It is valuable in assisting reference to the originals, and covers the period 1547–1760. In addition to the matter published in the Calendars one finds reference to papers relating to such matters as Aliens 1681–88, *Caveats* 1668–1710, Criminal Papers 1704–1766, Church and University Preferments 1661–1760, Muster Rolls of 1640, Military Entry Books 1662–1781, Petitions 1636–1760, and Preaching Licences 1672–3.

IV. *Revised List of Plea Rolls. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1910. *7s.*

This is a list of all the Plea Rolls from 5° Ric. I. onwards, except the Pleas of the Forest. Under the title of Eyre Rolls or Assize Rolls are included those of the Justices of Eyre with Gaol Delivery, of Assize with Gaol Delivery, and of Oyer and Terminer, also the rolls of those commissioned to take special assizes of *Novel Disseisin*. The other Plea Rolls are of course

those, first, of the *Curia Regis*, and, afterwards, of either the King's Bench or Common Pleas.

For Staffordshire, we have already published the Rolls of the Curia Regis, King's Bench and Common Pleas down to 1485. Most of the Assize Rolls and Eyre Rolls down to that period, often with Gaol Delivery, have been partially extracted and transcribed by General Wrottesley at the same time, and are printed with the Rolls of the two Courts of Justice. The following, however, seem not to have been printed by him in these *Transactions*:—*Assize Rolls*, 22° Ed. I., and 34° Ed. I. Some of these may have found their way to the P.R.O. since Gen. Wrottesley transcribed the Plea Rolls, and should be examined and, if new, printed by us as soon as possible. There are also these special assizes of *Novel Disseisin* relating to Elkesdon (1292), Cumberford (1329), and Kibblestone (1402), which should be made public both from the peculiarity of the Roll as well as for local interest.

Then there are the Gaol Delivery Rolls of 21°, 27°, 28°, 29°, 30° Ed. I., 2°–4°, 7°–29°, 51° Ed. III., 1°–3°, 5°–10° Ric. II., and from 1389 to 1422. Of these Rolls we give a short sample as follows:—

Gaol Delivery Roll.

No. 122. mem. 11. 4 Edward III. [1330.]

[*Translation.*]

Delivery of the gaol of our lord the King of Stafford made before John de Annesleye and William de Shareshull justices of our lord the King appointed to deliver the gaol aforesaid, on Tuesday next after the feast of the Nativity of Mary [12 Sept., 1329], in the third year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the conquest.

Pirhulle.

Richard le Webbe, taken for that he was indicted hereof that he feloniously broke into the church of Colton and there feloniously took and carried away chalices and vestments to the value of 100*s*., comes hither led by the sheriff, and being asked how he wills to acquit himself of the aforesaid felony he defends all the felony and all, etc., and says that he is in nowise guilty thereof, and of this he puts himself upon the country. Therefore let there be a jury therein, etc. Twelve jurors say upon their oath that the aforesaid Richard is in nowise guilty of the felony aforesaid charged upon him, nor ever withdrew himself on that account. Therefore he is quit thereof, etc.

Reference to Vol. VII, pp. 154–172, will show how we have previously condensed and printed these Gaol Delivery Rolls of Edward I. It will be noticed that, even cut down as then printed, General Wrottesley only attempted to calendar one-tenth of the entries!

So far, we have printed few of these Gaol Deliveries and none of the Coroners' Rolls, and from this list we find that the following Staffordshire Coroners' Rolls are in existence and available for research, 1330, and from 1373 to 1415; while there is also a *Rotulus de Exigendis* of 1350–1.

We give a sample of these Coroners' Rolls as follows:—

Coroner's Roll. No. 159.

[*Translation.*]

THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD, Thursday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, in the fourth year of the reign of King Edward the Third from the conquest. [6 Sept., 1330.]

On the same day it is presented by twelve jurors of the liberty of Brewode, to wit, by John de Strangelford, William le Marchal, William le Revesone, Simon son of Ralph, Stephen Barons, Walter Gilbert, John upon le Heth, Adam Touche, Richard Touche, William Gilot, Robert Gode, that it happened at Brewode in a certain place which is called Hubbeleye, that a certain Nicholas, son of William Godwine, went from Brewode towards the White Nuns of Brewode, and being detained by instigation of the devil, drowned himself in a certain marlpit on Sunday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary. William de la Withies first found him and raised the hue and cry. Viewed by Richard de Hampton. Pledges of the finder, Peter Godwyn and Robert Godwyn. The felon had goods, to wit, 23*d.*, and in the hands of Robert Dode, 2*s.*; and in the hands of William de Crakeford, 2*s.*; and in the hands of John de Strangeford, 3 strikes of wheat, price 12*d.*; and in the hands of Roger de Crakeford, 2 strikes of wheat and 2 strikes of oats, price 22*d.*; in the hands of Robert le Talbore one strike of oats, price 2*d.*; in the hands of William Godwin the younger 8*d.*, and one chest, price 2*d.*, delivered to the township of Brewode. The liberty does not come.

Owing to the value of the lists of jurors' names, some sort of calendar of the Staffordshire Coroners' Rolls might be worth attempting as a guide to the Parish historian or genealogist.

V. *List of Ministers' Accounts, Pt. I., to* 1485. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1894.

This is a list of the original annual accounts of "Bailiffs," "Reeves," "Keepers," "Receivers," "Farmers," "Collectors," etc., of lands, temporarily, for some reason, in the hands of the Crown or Duchy of Lancaster. Ministers, of some one of the above denominations, were appointed to collect the issues of any manors or lands which did not form part of the *Firma Comitatus* and were not accounted for by the Sheriff.

The entries in this list are all in the form :—

Bundle.	No.	Lands.	County.	Date.	Description of Officer.
369	6179	Tutbury Rolleston Barton etc., etc.	Stafford	19 to 20 Hen. VI.	Reeves, Bailiffs, etc.

Ministers' Accounts, from the Duchy of Lancaster, fill the early part of the list, and provide us with the financial statements of either Reeves or Receivers for the honour of Tutbury, from about 1314 to 1485, the date at which this list closes. Newcastle, the other *caput* of the Duchy in Staffordshire, is not quite so fully represented, but we have Bailiffs' Accounts for 1314, 1358, 1387, 1399 and from 1423 to the end. It ought to be possible, from these accounts, to amplify the list of Mayors and Bailiffs of this ancient Borough. Pattingham and Walsall furnish accounts for 1396 and 1480, and Madeley (Alfac?) for 1436 in this Duchy List.

The General Ministers' Accounts fill the greater part of the volume. Lands were in the King's hands for many reasons, death or treason being the most usual. Thus, Somervill's lands, Wichnor and Alrewas, were "kept" in 1355; Lord Audley's lands, including Audley, Tunstall, Horton, etc., in 1469-70 and again in 1485. Bramshall is accounted for in 1470; Cannock in 1415; Dudley in 1421; the Earl of Stafford's lands in 1439 and 1449; Rolleston in 1288 and 1358; Stourton, Kinver, etc.,

in 1467, doubtless on some escheat of that stout Lancastrian, John Hampton. The "Prioress" accounts for Rugeley "Priory" in 1485; and as early as 1232 we have a receiver accounting for Arley, late of Hubert de Burg, and for Wemme and Tyrley, late of William Pandolf.

The accounts of the Alien Priories and Bishop's Temporalities add little to our Staffordshire material, the lands of the bishopric being in a receiver's hands only in 1322. At this same date, under the Possessions of the *Contrarients*, we have accounts of Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Newcastle and Keele, late of either Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, beheaded, or of the Temple, dissolved. Among the Contrarients, too, was Robert de Holond, and from 1323 to 1327, Yoxall, late of Robert de Holond, furnishes the usual revenue account.

Vol. VIII, *Lists and Indexes*, furnishes an Index to these accounts, or rather to the places accounted for; but an index seems hardly so necessary in this case as in some others, since the counties are more or less grouped together in the List.

We give the following sample :—

Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 183. *No.* 2904.

[1422–3] NEWCASTLE.

ACCOUNT OF HENRY BUGGES the Reeve (*prepositus*) there from the feast of St. Michael in the first year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth to the same feast then next following, before Thomas Somercote auditor.

The same answers for 15*l.* 17*s.* 5¼*d.* the half and the third part of a farthing in rent in Penkhull at the terms of St. Andrew the Apostle, the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Michael equally, as appears by the new rental 3 Henry V. And for 13*l.* 18*s.* 7¼*d.* and the fourth part of a farthing of rent in Clayton. And for 6*l.* 15*s.* 10¼*d.* of rent in Shelton and Hanley. And for 9*l.* 17*s.* 11½*d.* half a farthing of rent in Wolstanton. And for 20*s.* 7½*d.* for certain two Views [of Frankpledge] there yearly, at the chief term of Lent. And for 40*s.* of the rent of certain lands and tenements in Lyne, of the old tithings, late in the tenure of Thomas Bentley for 36*s.*, and afterwards in the tenure of William Doun for 36*s.*, and thereupon demised to the said William and his heirs to hold according to the custom of the manor; rendering therefor by the year 40*s.*, as appears by the aforesaid new rental and by the Court Rolls of 3 Henry V. And so of increase 4*s.* yearly.

Farms (firme).

And for 40*l.* for the farm of the burgesses with the toll of the market and fairs and other commodities of the same, at the terms of the Annunciation and St. Michael.

40*l.* for the fee farm of the mills there, so demised to the burgesses; 18*s.*, for the farm of the herbage of Poleshede at Shepruge [Seabridge] and other lands in decay, with one plot of pasture called Hychecokfelde, and another pasture called Thomasfeld, so demised to Henry Mylward for 20 years which are passed, [as appears] by the extracts of Richard Gascoigne late chief steward there.

5*s.* for the farm of the meadow of Poleshed, at Newcastle, so demised for this year, nevertheless it used to render 7*s.*

For the farm of the meadow of Poleshed, late in the tenure of Henry Stanlowe, nothing this year, because it is destroyed by the raising of the head of the millpond.

24*s.* for the farm of the meadow called Kyngesmedowe, so demised to the township of Wolstanton.

20*s.* for the farm of the meadow called Kyngesmedowe, in Newcastle, so demised to the burgesses of the town there by the year.

13*s.* 4*d.* for the farm of the ironstone mine there so demised to Roger Bedhull [Biddulph] and Richard de Snede by the year.

6*d.* for the farm of one curtilage at Poleshede late John Kene's, so demised by the year.

12*d.* for the passage of Mere[1] this year.

16*s.* for the farm of the herbage of the Castelcliff, so demised for this year; nevertheless it used to render 33*s.* 4*d.*

25*s.* 4*d.* for the farm of the herbage of Kyngesfeld, in Penkhull, with the meadow of Welfordbrigg, so demised to John Colclogh and William del Chambre by the year.

16*s.* for the farm of the fishery of the pool around the castle, so demised to John Colclogh for 6 years, which have elapsed; nevertheless it used to render 26*s.* 8*d.*

6*s.* 8*d.* for the arm of the mine of sea coals there this year.

Nothing for the pannage of pigs there this year.

Nothing for the "cropp" and bark of branches felled there this year.

8*s.* for the farm of the herbage of 14 acres of land in Ducheyheth, so demised to the burgesses of the town of Newcastle for the term of [ ] years by Court Roll this year.

Sum—88*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Perquisites of Courts.

4*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* of the perquisites of the Courts held there this year.

11*s.* 10*d.* for fines of divers persons for releasing suit of Court this year.

[1] The passage of Meir must have been a toll levied on passengers along the Newcastle–Derby road where it passed over the morass at what is now Meir. There was probably a causeway built there.

15*d.* perquisites of two views in Bradnop.[1]

5*s.* 3*d.* for waifs and estrays there sold this year.

Sum, 105*s.* 6*d.*

52*s.* 6½*d.* and half a farthing of the issues of the lands of Henry Sweekeston, seised and being in the hand of the lord for certain causes, is approved beyond the rent thereof due to the King by the year, above examined upon this account. But let it be better enquired into by the steward before the next [court], and let it be certified.

Sum total of the receipt, 145*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*

Expenses.

Stipend of the Reeve 20*s.* yearly for collecting the rents and other issues. Parchment for Court Rolls and estreats 2*s.*

40*s.* paid to the abbot and convent of Chester of ancient alms yearly, as is allowed in the accounts preceding.

Sum, 4*l.* 2*s.*

Respited to him 20*l.* in respect of part of the farm of the mills, at 40*l.* by the year. Which sum of 20*l.* by the year the Lord the King of his special grace, respited to his tenants and burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme, until the advent of the chief steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, and he should have full information concerning the losses and poverty of the tenants there, by the King's letter of warrant, dated at Westminster, 3rd December, 2 Henry V.

Costs of the Castle.

Wages of one mason mending defects of the castle bridge and the walls of the tower[2] this year for 15 weeks, taking 4*s.* a week—45*s.* [*sic*].

Paid for sharpening the said mason's "pyckes"—2*s.*

Wages of William Pessall, labourer, serving the said mason for 9 days—4*s.* 3*d.*

Wages of Richard Pecock, another labourer, working about the said work for 5 days—20*d.*

Wages of William Bake, another labourer, working about the said work for 6 days—2*s.*

Wages of William Swanylde, another labourer, working about the said work for 4 days—20*d.*

Wages of Adam Dutton, working about the said work for 18 days—4*s.* 6*d.*

Wages of William Bake and Adam Dutton for 5 days about the said work—20*d.*

Paid John Kydde for the carriage of 8 cartloads of timber from Castelclyff to the castle for repairing of the bridge there—2*s.* 8*d.*

[1] The connection of Bradnop with Newcastle Manor, or rather with the older Royal Manor of Penkhull, is shown in the *Testa de Nevil*; see Vol. 1911, p. 408.

[2] Therefore the tower was obviously *not* made of wood as has been supposed.

Paid the same for carrying 18 cartloads of sand for the said work—2*s.* 3*d.*
3 quarters of lime bought for the same work—8*s.*
One cart brought for carrying the same lime to the castle—10*d.*
One can bought for carrying water to the castle for the same work—8*d.*
One pan bought for the same work—2*d.*
One "trogh" for putting mortar in for the same work—1*d.*
One sieve bought for the same work—2*d.*
Wages of one woman carrying the said lime into the castle, because the cart could not cross over the bridge—2*d.*

Sum, 78*s.*

Delivered to Bernard Ridware, clerk, the King's receiver there, of the issues of his office of this year, by one indenture, 48*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Sum of all the expenses and deliveries, 76*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

59*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.*, whereof he paid to the receiver by the hands of John Leventhorp, Receiver-General. Whereof, for the charge of the Reeve 16*s.* 8*d.*, and for the charge of the Bailiffs of the town there—73*s.* 4*d.*—7*l.*

VI. *List and Index of Court Rolls, Pt.* 1. *H.M. Stationery Office.* 1896.

This volume is now out of print and we are still waiting for the Second Part. The study of Court Rolls is as yet in its infancy, and they call for printing by local societies even more than do the Parish Register. Local places and surnames, local customs, land transfer, glimpses into the social life of the day, abound in all Court Rolls. This information has been largely left to lie fallow; and when the Rolls have been used, it has been mainly for genealogical purposes, pure and simple.

Here, in this Part I, we get a complete list of the Court Rolls in the statutory custody of the Master of the Rolls. One quarter of the volume is confined to Court Rolls from the Duchy of Lancaster; the rest is general. In Part II, if we ever get it, the list will include all those Court Rolls, as many again, as are deposited in the Public Record Office, but not in the statutory custody of the Master. Even further off is a list, complete or otherwise, of the vast mass of these Rolls, still jealously locked away in the private possession of lords of the Manor or Solicitors, sometimes well kept, but often mouldering to dust, in a manner even more lamentable than the ill-tended Parish Register of a far later date.

The entries are made in this manner :—

Bundle.	No.	Lands.	County.	Date.	Description of Courts, etc.	Membranes.
108	1606	Forebridge with Tillington, Alston, Billington, Mitton, Longnor, Burton, Richardscote, Barton, Apeton, Bradley, etc., etc.	Stafford	12 to 13 Edw. IV.	Court	5

For reference to details, use must be made of the List itself, but it may be briefly stated here that the Staffordshire Courts dealt with are as follows :—

Tutbury, Court, Portmote or Woodmote. In which are included, at different times, Acard, Bridgeford, Welde, Rodman, New Liberty, Woodhouse and Bushones. 1284, 1293–4 1311, and 1338 onwards to the end, with intervals.

Rolleston, with The Riding. 1325–6 and 1335 onwards.

Uttoxeter, with Loxley, Flutteley, and sometimes with Coton, Moreton, Fauld, Tensepark and Marchington, 1333 onwards.

Needwood Forest, Courts and Woodmotes, including generally Tutbury, Marchington, Barton, Yoxall and Uttoxeter Wards of the Forest ; and with the Castle Hay, Agardsley, Rowley, Stockley, Hanbury, Rolleston and Ryffhay Parks ; and with Highlands, and often with Hoarcross and Dunstall. 1336 onwards, with intervals.

Barton-under-Needwood, Courts and Woodmotes, including Callengwood, Tatenhill, Dunstall and Newbolt. 1344, onwards, with intervals.

Marchington, with Hambury, Fauld, Draycott-in-the-clay, Coton, Moreton and Woodlands *alias* Woodhouses, 1375–6, 1381, 1395, 1421 onwards.

Agardsley, with Thornihill, Hoarcross and Newborough. 1405, 1415–7, 1425, 1445 onwards.
Stafford Forebridge, including Tillington, Alston, Billington, Mitton, Longnor in Bradley, Burton, Richardscote, Berton, Apeton, Bradley, Wollaston, Shredicote, Burg' Rule. 1472–3.
Church Eaton, with Orslow. 1472–3.
Madeley-under-Lyme. 1472–3.
Perry Bar. 1476–9.
Wichnor, with Syerscote, Ridware and Hampstall-Ridware. 1403, 1436, 1447, 1451–3.
Alrewas. 1286–8.
Kinver. 1293.
Horton, with Longsdon, Endon, Stanley, Rushton-James, Bagnall and Gretton. 1388 and 1538–49.
Edingale. 1302.
Eccleshall. 1451, 1543.
Elkstone. 1487, 1535.
Sheen. 1509–10, 1514–1623.
Wootton-under-Weever. 1544–51.
Shenstone, with Stonall, Footherley, etc. 1547–1563.
Seighford. 1548.
Roucester, with Waterfall, Quixhill, Combridge, Calton and Denstone. 1547–54.
Leek, with Rushton-Spencer. 1546–52.
Cannock. 1558.

There is, finally, a wonderfully complete series of Great and Little Court Rolls for the Borough and "Foreign" of Newcastle-under-Lyme. The Foreign or Soke of Newcastle included Fenton-Vivian, Hanford, Clayton-Griffin, Penkhull, Boothen, Knutton and Dimsdale, Longton, Hanley, Wolstanton, Shelton, Whitmore, Hanchurch, Clayton-Parva, Seabridge and Botteslow. The Rolls are of date 1335, 1348 to 1538, 1543–1547, 1551–1580, 1585–90, 1595–1775, one of the most complete series in existence

VII, XXIV, XXX. *Chancery Proceedings* (Series II), Vol. I, 1558–79; Vol. II, 1579–1621; Vol. III, 1621–1660. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1896, 1908, 1909.

These lists of Chancery Proceedings are all entered in the form :—

Bundle No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Place or Subject.	County.
248, 43	Rugeley, Thos.	Warner, Isabel, widow.	Hawksyard, Armitage, Handsacre.	Stafford.

But, whereas the two later volumes run to some 360 pages and have about 35 suits to the page, the first volume is in small type and has 460 pages with 50 suits to the page. Of the 46,000 suits listed in these 100 years, some 1,000 will relate to Staffordshire. It is hardly possible to transcribe them in full within any reasonable time. As, however, there are no indexes to these lists, and the whole three volumes must at present be searched through page by page for any particular surname, it is proposed to print in one of our future volumes each Staffordshire entry in the summarized form given above and to have them indexed. It is hoped that it may be possible to transcribe in full the early Chancery Proceedings prior to 1558, and indeed this has already been begun in our Vol. VII, N.S.

VIII. *Index to list of Ministers' Accounts, No.* 5. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1897.

This volume is merely an Index to the places for which accounts were rendered, as shown in the list in Vol. V. The references are to the Bundles, and it is of some use to the parish historian.

IX. *List of Sheriffs to* 1832. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1898.

This volume has long been out of print, a fact which alone testifies to its value for research. Lists of Sheriffs appear in various county histories. They are often vague, marked in

regnal years, and generally incorrect. Here alone we get the official list with exact date of appointment wherever discoverable, though even this is now capable of enlargement.

The list has been compiled mainly from two sources: (1) the accounts rendered by the Sheriffs on the Pipe Rolls; (2) the records of their actual appointments on the Patent or Fine Rolls, or sometimes on the Memoranda Rolls of the Exchequer. The accounts run generally from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, but the Sheriff is often accounting for a period before his actual appointment.

The Sheriffs were generally appointed by the Crown on the advice of the permanent Council, the exceptions being: (1) during the rule of Simon de Montfort, when the County Court submitted names to the Council of Barons; (2) during part of the reign of Edward I., when sheriffs were nominated like Knights of the Shire, and elected, and finally appointed by the Lord Treasurer; (3) in 1338–40; and (4) in 1643–53, when the appointments were made by Ordinance of Parliament.

The term was definitely limited to one year in 1368, and in 1377 reappointment within three years was prohibited. Before the reign of Henry VIII. the present method of "pricking" among three names had come into use, and it may perhaps be assumed that when chance became the arbiter of the appointment, the appointment itself was no longer one of much financial value.

It is important, more especially as the list is out of print and incomplete, that the Staffordshire Sheriffs should be set out in full in our *Transactions* for reference and for indexing. This has therefore been done elsewhere in the present volume. One would like to transcribe also the lists of Sheriffs of Lichfield, here given, from 1556 onwards, but that would take undue space and the names seem unimportant.

X. *List of Proceedings respecting Charitable Uses. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1899.

This is a list, arranged under counties, of the proceedings taken before the Commissioners for Charitable Uses, appointed under Statutes of 1597 and 1601. These Commissioners were to enquire into any abuses of charities, and their decrees might be reviewed in the Chancery Court on any exception being

taken. In such cases evidence and proceedings were enrolled at great length, but these proceedings contain the Inquisitions and decrees of the Commissioners only.

The Staffordshire decrees extend from 1601 to 1732 and cover Charities, Schools, Bridges and Paving, Curates, Highways and Almshouses. We give below the Inquests and decrees respecting the schools at Newcastle in 1° Geo. II. as a sample. Other school endowments are dealt with at Burton, Abbots Bromley, Stafford, Cannock, Rolleston, Brewood, Kinver, Maer, Madeley, Audley, Rugeley, Leigh, Bradley, Lichfield, Walsall, Bucknall and Church Eaton, and it might be worth the modern ratepayers' while to look them up. There are bridges too at Yoxall, West Bromwich and Uttoxeter, which should be maintained out of trust funds and settled lands.

Charity Inquisitions, Bundle 55, *No.* 15.

Writ.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, etc., King, etc. To the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Henry Raines, esquire, chancellor of the diocese, Sir Waltar Wagstaffe Bagot, Sir John Astely, etc. Know ye, etc.

And we also command our sheriff of co. Stafford that at such times, days and places which you shall appoint to him he shall cause to come before you such and as many honest men of co. Stafford by whom the truth of the matter may best be known to inquire of the premises upon their oaths, as you shall require. Willing also and charging all and singular our Justices of peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, etc., to whom in this case it may be appertaining to be aiding to you our said Commissioners in the due execution of this our commission, as they tender our pleasure will answer the contrary at their utmost perils. In witness whereof We have caused these our letters to be sealed with our great seal. Witness ourself at Westminster, 11 February, in the 13th year of our reign. [1727.]

An Inquisition taken at Wolseley Bridge, co. Stafford, 12th October, 1 George II. 1727, before Ralph Sneyd, esquire, Richard Ryder, gentleman, John Taylor, Michael Ward, William Jervis and Thomas Olliver, clerks, by virtue of a commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing date 11 February last, directed to them, for due execution of a statute made in the high court of Parliament 27 October, 43 Elizabeth, entitled an Act to redress the misemployment of lands, goods, etc., heretofore given to charitable uses, by the oaths of John Bourne, William Holland, John Jackson, Cornelius Reading,

Robert Kemp, William Barbour, Richard Stych, Thomas Plant, Thomas Barefoot, William Turner, Richard Warner, Joshua Stonhewer, John Braddock, and Benjamin Allen, good and honest men of co. Stafford, duly sworn according to the said statute and commission.

They the said priors upon their oath say that Edward Orme of Newcastle under Line, co. Stafford, clerk, was at the time of his death seised in fee of a messuage in Newcastle aforesaid, wherein John Low did then inhabit, and of 6 days' work in Poole field in the said parish of the yearly value of 9*l.* and so being seised made his last will dated 23 February, 1704, and by his said will did amongst other things give and bequeath to his executors and their heirs all that messuage in Newcastle wherein John Low did then inhabit, and all his lands in the Poole field aforesaid and all his lands, tenements and hereditaments not before disposed of, and the residue of his real and personal estate upon special trust that they should employ the rents, issues and profits as follows :—5*l.* per annum thereof by the approbation of the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgesses of Newcastle aforesaid in putting to apprentice poor children inhabiting in Newcastle, and that they shall employ the residue of the said rents for teaching so many poor children of Newcastle to read, write and cast accounts, and buying of them books as the same will extend to, and made John Fenton, gentleman, son of John Fenton, gentleman, deceased, and Henry Hatrell executors of his said will.

And the jurors say further that the said Edward Orme departed this life about 20th February, 1704, and Henry Hatrell, one of the executors named, proved the said will and exhibited an inventory of the testator's personal estate, and received 1,193*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, part of the personal estate, and took 176*l.* 12*s.* 7½*d.* of the 1,193*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, and paid and discharged the debts of the said Edward Orme, and that there remained after payment of the said debts, for the charitable uses in the will specified, 717*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.* residue of the testator's personal estate, in the hands of Henry Hatrell.

And they further say that the said Henry Hatrell and John Fenton in execution of the said will about 1 September, 1705, appointed Richard Maclim the complainant schoolmaster, and in the 8th year of the reign of the late Queen Anne agreed with William Gibson of Knutton, co. Stafford, and Mary Gibson of the same, widow, for the purchase of a messuage in Knuton then in the holding of John Gibson, and that it was part of the agreement that John Fenton and Henry Hatrell should make a lease of the said premises to John Gibson for any number of years determinable on the death of any three persons to be nominated by the said John Gibson, subject to the yearly rent of 35*l.* payable at Midsummer and Christmas, the landlord to bear all taxes incident to the estate and bear the charge of repairs except thatching and glazing. The said William and Mary Gibson in pursuance of such agreement and in consideration of 700*l.* paid to the said William and Mary, part of the charity money in the hands of Henry Hatrell by indenture of feoffment executed with livery and bearing date 25th March, 1710, bargained, sold and released all that messuage in Knutton

in the holding of William Gibson and Mary Gibson, widow, or of John Gibson her son, and all seats and pews thereunto belonging and all lands thereto belonging. To have and to hold to John Fenton and Henry Hatrell their heirs and assigns for ever, to the only use and behoof of the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell and their heirs and assigns for ever.

The said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell by indenture bearing date 25 March, 1710, demised all the aforesaid messuage and premises to the said John Gibson for 99 years, determinable upon the lives of the said John Gibson, John and William, sons of the said John Gibson, at the yearly rent of 35*l.* payable 24 June and 25 December yearly. The said messuage and lands so purchased by Henry Hatrell and John Fenton were at or about the time of the said purchase of Knutton farm, mortgaged by the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell to Ralph Shaw of Burslem for the sum of 150*l.* and the said sum is now due and charged on the said estate.

And the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell by deed poll bearing date 15 March, 13 George I., declared the messuage, lands and premises in Knutton in the holding of John Gibson, to be purchased by them in trust for the charitable uses aforesaid and further that the schoolhouse and school and buildings thereto belonging as then mered and walled out, are in trust for the charitable uses aforesaid, and that so much of the said lands as had been employed for the use of the school and schoolhouse at all times hereafter be employed and made use for the advancement of the charity and in execution of the said trust.

And the said jurors further say that John Fenton did no further in the charity than as aforesaid, and that they find the accounts of the said Henry Hatrell, relating to the said charity now produced and signed by the said Henry Hatrell, and commissioners naught, and that the said Henry Hatrell received from time to time the rents of the house and lands aforesaid in Newcastle, and farm in Knutton, and employed and laid out the same without the assent or intermeddling of John Fenton, and that there was due and owing to the said charity at the time of the making the said mortgage 140*l.* and upwards, and that Henry Hatrell received and laid out in building school and schoolhouse and such other payments as appear in his said accounts the sum of 140*l.* The said jurors further say that 20*l.*, part of the said trust money, was, in 1715, expended extravagantly by Henry Hatrell in building the said school and schoolhouse, and that the same might have been finished at a less expense by 20*l.*, and that Henry Hatrell yearly detained the sum of 2*l.* out of the charity, as a salary for his care in managing the said trust, and that Henry Hatrell ought to have placed out two boys, yearly apprentices, and that he did not place out two boys, nor brought the 5*l.* given by the will for that use to account, but is debtor to the charity for the said 5*l.*, and that he placed poor children in the said school to be taught, that were not poor children of Newcastle, and thereby kept poor children of Newcastle out of the said school, which they find a breach of trust. In witness whereof to one part of this present inquisition delivered by the said jurors to the said commissioners, and by them to be returned

into the high court of Chancery, as well the said commissioners as the said jurors have set their hands and seals, and the other part thereof, remaining with the foreman of the said jurors, the said commissioners have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

AT WOLSLEY BRIDGE, CO. STAFFORD, 21 November, 1 George II., 1727. Whereas by an inquisition taken at Wolsley Bridge, 12 October last past, before Ralph Sneyd, esquire, Richard Ryder, etc., by virtue of a commission, bearing date 11 February last, to us directed, by the oaths of John Bourne, etc., etc., it is seen and appears to us that Edward Orme, of Newcastle-under-Line, co. Stafford, clerk, was at the time of his death seised etc. [as above].

Now we, the said Ralph Sneyd, Richard Ryder, John Taylor, Michael Ward, William Jervis, and Thomas Olliver, having duly summoned and heard the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell and their counsel touching the said premises, are of an opinion that the messuage in Newcastle and lands in Poole field, and the sum of 717*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*, the testator's personal estate, remaining in the hands of Henry Hatrell after payment of the testator's debts, legacies, and funeral charges, was liable and subject to the charitable uses in the testator's will expressed. And by virtue of the said statute and commission, order and decree that the said messuage in Newcastle and lands in Poole field, and farm called Knuton farm purchased by John Fenton and Henry Hatrell as aforesaid, with the rents, issues and profits thereof, shall be for ever hereafter subject to the charitable uses aforesaid, that is to say 5*l.* per annum, part thereof to be employed by the consent and approbation of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Newcastle, in putting to apprentice poor children inhabiting in Newcastle aforesaid, the residue of the said rents, etc., for teaching of so many of the poor children of Newcastle to read, write and cast account, and buying of them books as the same will extend to. And to the end that the said rents, etc., may for ever hereafter be faithfully and duly employed for the charitable uses for which the same were given, do by virtue of the said statute and commission, order that the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell shall, within three months next after notice of this our decree by good conveyance, grant, convey and set over the said messuage and lands aforesaid, in Newcastle and Knutton school and schoolhouse, and all other lands devised by the said will for the charitable uses aforesaid, not applied by the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell to the uses aforesaid, to Thomas Allen, Dean of Chester, The Honourable William Leveson-Gower, of Trentham, co. Stafford, esquire, Edward Mainwaring, of Whitmore, co. Stafford, esquire, Rowland Cotton, of Etwell, co. Derby, esquire, Ralph Sneyd, of Keele, co. Stafford, Thomas Hatrell, of Newcastle-under-Lyne, co. Stafford, gentleman, and John Fenton the younger, of the same place, gentleman, and their heirs to the intent that they shall employ the rents and profits of the said messuage, lands and premises to the uses and purposes in the said will declared. And do further

order that when two or more of the said trustees shall be dead, or before if it be thought expedient, the surviving trustees shall make a new conveyance of the premises to the use of themselves, and such other persons as they shall choose to appoint for the uses aforesaid, and that the schoolmaster for the time being shall be receiver of the said rents belonging to the said charity, and yearly on St. James's day at the schoolhouse in Newcastle, give up true accounts, in writing, of the receipts and disbursements to the said trustees. And that the said trustees shall, whenever they shall see occasion, displace such master from being receiver and appoint such other person as they shall approve of to receive the said rents. And do further order that no child be placed out an apprentice or instructed in the said school but poor children of Newcastle, nominated by the said trustees, and that a sum not exceeding 4*l.* be laid out yearly in buying books, paper, quills and ink for the scholars. And whereas it appears by the said inquisition that Henry Hatrell expended in 1715, 20*l.* part of the said trust money extravagantly, in building the said school and schoolhouse and detained 2*l.* yearly, part of the said trust, for his salary, and neglected to place out two boy apprentices and has thereby remaining in his hand 5*l.* not accounted for, part of the charity, we further order that the said Henry at the time of executing such conveyance pay to the said trustees the sum of 20*l.* with interest for the same from the year 1715, and pay the further sum of 44*l.* detained from time to time as his salary, and the sum of 5*l.* not applied in placing out apprentices according to the direction of the said will, and in like manner account for all rents received by him in 1726. And do further decree that the mortgage made to Ralph Shaw was a breach of trust, the said charity money then in the hands of Henry Hatrell, appearing by his accounts now produced to the commissioners, more than sufficient to have paid for the said estate, and that the building of the said school was a breach of trust and no part of the testator's intent, a school having been built before by the subscriptions of the said Edward Orme and other inhabitants of Newcastle for the uses aforesaid, as appears to us by the evidence of witnesses and confessions of the said Henry and parties. And we do further decree that the said Doctor Thomas Allen, William Leveson-Gower, etc., employ the money decreed to be paid to them by the said Henry in discharging the debt and mortgage to the said Ralph Shaw, and if the money received by them shall not be sufficient to discharge the said debt and mortgage that then the said Doctor Thomas Allen, etc., shall sell such part of the said trust estate in Newcastle aforesaid, as shall be needful, and with the money or such part thereof as shall be raised by the said sale and discharge the said debt. And that the said Henry Hatrell and John Fenton shall, at the time of the executing of the conveyance hereby directed, deliver to the said Doctor Thomas Allen, etc., all deeds relating to the said estates at Newcastle and Knutton, or trust estate not accounted for, making all just allowance to the said Henry Hatrell. And whereas it appears by inspection of the lease made by the said John Fenton and Henry Hatrell of the messuage in Newcastle, and evidence of witnesses, that the lessee Ralph

Beech, is to keep the said messuage in Newcastle in good repair, and that the said tenement is now ruinous and out of repair, we hereby order that the said Ralph Beech, before midsummer next, put and keep during the time of the said lease the said tenement in such good repair as the Mayor of Newcastle shall direct. And in consideration of the very frequent and long attendance and necessary evidence and number of witnesses had and produced to maintain the complainant, we decree that the said Henry Hatrell, pay to B . . . Colclough, of Ellenhall, co. Stafford, gentleman, on behalf of Mr. Richard Maclim, the complainant, 70*l.* for the charges in sueing out the said commission and in presenting the said inquisition and this decree.

In witness whereof the commissioners aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above said.

XI. *List of Foreign Accounts. H.M. Stationery Office*, 1900.

By "Foreign Accounts" we must understand accounts rendered by the Sheriffs, "foreign" to the ordinary County Accounts, but enrolled on the Pipe Rolls. The present list enumerates the Foreign Accounts from Hen. III. to Ric. III. and includes, besides those rendered by the Sheriff, the enrolled accounts relating to the Wardrobe and Household and those of the County Escheator. Those Foreign Accounts relating to the lands of "Contrarients," 1322, Templar's lands and Queen's lands are dealt with in No. V under *Original Ministers' Accounts*. Moreover, such enrolments as Aids and Subsidies, Purveyance, etc., are also omitted from this list.

The first to be entered are Army and Navy accounts, and one is sorely tempted to give all the Staffordshire entries. A few must, however, suffice till we can publish them in full.

1342–3. Wm. Trussell, admiral of the fleet, for wages and expenses.

1343–7. Wm. Walkelate and John de Stafford, wardens of the march of Tweed.

1353–61. Ric. de Caveswall, yeoman of the King's arms.

1354–6. Wm. Trussell of Cublesden, for the maintenance of David de Bruys, a prisoner.

1368. Philip de Luttely, for the cost of providing arrows.

1372. Ralph Basset of Sapecote and Ralph Basset of Drayton for the wages of sailors and soldiers, serving by sea and in France.

Pipe Roll, 15 *Edward III.*, *m.* 46.

[*Translation.*]

ACCOUNT OF ADAM DE PESHALE, sheriff of Salop and Stafford, of the expenses by him laid out about the purchase, provision and carrying of arrows for the King's use, in the 15th year, by the King's writ dated 18th April in the same year [1341,] whereby the King commanded the said sheriff, firmly enjoining, that 1,000 sheaves of arrows be brought and provided within the bailiwick of that sheriffdom, from the issues of the same bailiwick.

The same accounts in 576 sheaves of arrows with steel heads, the worth of each sheaf 12*d.*, so bought at the towns of Shrewsbury and Stafford in the said 15th year, 28*l.*, 16*s.*, by the aforesaid writ, and as is contained in a certain schedule of particulars which he delivered into the treasury.

And in two waggons brought for carrying the said arrows from the said towns of Salop and Stafford to the King's Tower of London, by the space of 230 leagues (*leuce*), with the wages of one clerk going with the same waggons for 13 days in August in the said 15th year, viz., going and returning, to wit, with each waggon with horses 14*d.* a day, and for the said clerk 6*d.* a day —36*s.* 3*d.*, by the same writ. Which said arrows the same sheriff delivered to John de Flete, clerk, by the King's writ.

Sum of the expenses—30*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* Which are allowed to the said sheriff in the roll following.

Trussells, Staffords, Bassets and Ferrars occur repeatedly, and John Hampton of Stourton and Kinver comes in in 1430 for building carriages for the King's great cannon and transporting them to France.

The accounts of the keepers of the King's horses, or of the King's forests, reveal no Staffordshire name till we meet with Wm. Walshale, M.P., accounting for Cannock 1398–1401; Ralph, Earl of Stafford, was accounting as lieutenant of the King in Aquitaine in 1352, and his brother Richard as seneschal of Gascony in 1361–2. Among the Treasurers of Calais we find Richard de Eccleshall 1351–61; Roger Salvayn 1413–22; Richard Vernon of Harlaston, the Speaker, 1445–1451; Walter Blount 1460–4, and Thomas Blount 1464–6. While Ralph Wolseley accounts as Lieutenant of Calais in 1465 6; Ralph de Ferrers was Captain of Calais in 1358–61; and Thomas de Holand keeper of Cherbourg in 1385.

The accounts of *Nuncii*, or embassies, record the public work of many Staffordshire men, work hitherto unknown. Hugh de

Audley has a mission to France in 1330; Wm. Trussell to France in 1331, and to Spain in 1334. Thomas and Richard de Stafford, Ralph Basset of Drayton, Ralph de Ferrars go to Ireland, France, Flanders and Scotland for Edward III. again and again. Wm. de Shareshill, the Chief Justice, is sent to the Scotch Parliament in 1344. Edmund Stafford, afterwards Chancellor, goes to Scotland to treat for peace in 1386. All these are men whose biographies are to be found in the *D.N.B.*, but no mention of these services are there to be found. Under the Lancastrian kings, John Blount goes to Castile in 1415; John, Lord Dudley, to Calais in 1436 and 1441, and the Duke of Buckingham and Bishop of Bath and Wells—the heads of the Stafford clan, are employed in similar service.

Under the Sheriff's Administrative Accounts the stocks for Stafford Gaol and the provision of arrows seem to be the only special items. The Wardrobe Accounts begin as early as 1224, but, till we find John Spencer, in 1413–8 and Robert Rolleston in 1420–1445, Keepers of the Great Wardrobe, there is nothing suggesting Staffordshire in this list. Incidentally, however, we find Henry Bourchier accounting for the expenses of Thomasine and Elizabeth, daughters and heiresses of Richard Hankford, in 1432–4. Now these two, and ultimately Elizabeth alone, were the heirs of one-third of the Audley Barony. Another unclassified and grim entry is the account of William Banastre for the carriage of the four quarters of the bodies of Henry Percy and other traitors, 1403.

The Keepers of ecclesiastical lands supply other accounts. Keepers of the Bishopric of Lichfield who account were :—Simon de Norwich 1239–40; Ralph de Lacok and Ralph de Dunsun in 1242; Hugh de Bussey in 1296; John Walwayn, the escheator south of Trent, in 1320; Hugh de Hopwas and Philip de Luttleley in 1358–60; George Castell, William Walshale and Walter Skirlawe in 1385–7. And if we turn to the Abbeys we find Burton Abbey managed by William de Haumpton in 1260, and by Richard Alanson in 1455; Rocester Abbey managed by Henry de Mercinton (Marchington) in 1258, by Bertram Bolyngbroke in 1385, by John Gayteford in 1386, and by Abbot John Hambury in 1408; Trentham Abbey accounts are extant for the years 1422, 1442, 1450–1. All these accounts acquire

especial importance in that they may indicate a vacancy which helps to determine the period of the different abbots.

What are called Territorial Accounts are the accounts of the keepers of certain lands in the King's hands. For instance, the lands, late of Philip de Somerville, after 1339 are in the keeping of John de Hambury; Penkridge, late of Thomas More, is in the keeping of William Husee in 1480; while John Delves accounts in 1418 for lands in Tixall, late of Robert Wastnesse. At an earlier date (1224) John Bonet the Sheriff, accounts for the issues of Harbourne, late of Fulk de Bréauté; and from 1239–1244 John l'Estrange kept the lands of the heir of John Fitz Philip. The Keeper of Audley's land in 1392 was again John Delves of Apedale and Doddington.

The sheriff's seizures come next and should be studied in detail as providing many dates and many events of importance. Why were the lands in Sandon, Consall and Blymhill, belonging to James de Stafford, John de Draycote and John de Ipstones, seized in 1351? Or why the lands in Westoncoyney, Kingsley, Chebsey, Uttoxeter, Aston, "Tykyngton," Kingswinford and Wednesbury, belonging to Robert Cuney (Coyney), Thomas Alderley (Adderley), Thomas Novell (Noel), Thomas Dedyk (Dethick), William Bolde, John Clerke, Roger Holbeche and William Smyth, collectors of a subsidy in 1455? Other seizures may be supposed to indicate the deaths of Roger Aston of Haywood in 1437; of Humphrey Lowe of Whittington and Trysull in 1441; of John Wode of Swynnerton and of Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon in 1443; of Richard Vernon of Harlaston and Haddon, the Speaker, in 1452; of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton in 1452; of Hugh Davenport of Pipe Ridware in 1462; and of John Griffiths of Wichnor in 1465.

There are still the Escheator's Accounts to deal with. This volume gives us an authentic list of the Escheators from their first appointment down to 1485. I propose to identify them and deal with them elsewhere, and with the help of the Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records to carry the list down to Stuart times. At present, therefore, I shall content myself with recording the presence of certain Staffordshire notables as Escheators in other countries. William Trussell was Escheator south of Trent in 1327 and 1330–40; Simon Basset had

Gloucester and the Welsh March from 1341–1350; for Salop we find William Lee 1402–3; William Colclough 1407–8; Roger Corbet 1420; John Wynnysbury of Pillatonhall 1432–3; Bevis (Boyce) Hampton 1439–40; John Chetwyn 1440–1; William Littelton 1472–3, and Humphrey Cotes 1475–7. While for Worcestershire there was Leo de Perton 1346–1368; John de Hambury 1372–5; John Blount 1392–4; William Walshale 1404–5; Nicholas Gifford 1443; Thomas Littelton 1444, and Humphrey Salwey in 1445.

This list of Foreign Accounts appears in fact to contain material for many years' work of a County Historical Society such as ours.

XII, XVI, XX, XXIX. *List of Early Chancery Proceedings.* 1387–1467, 1467–1485, 1485–1500, 1500–1515. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1901, 1903, 1906, 1908.

This collection of Early Chancery Proceedings includes, down to the end of the reigns of Philip and Mary, some 100,000 suits. Each of these four volumes contain about 14,000 suits, and there are three more volumes still to come. No less than 1,000 of these suits will refer to Staffordshire people and places, and, transcribed in such fullness as we have hitherto done, they will completely fill three of our volumes. The Early Chancery suits that we have already copied and printed in Vol. VII, New Series of our Transactions, must have been collected from some other list, for not one in ten has been there copied, yet Vol. VII is supposed to include all such suits down to the end of the reign of Henry VII. Judging from those Early Chancery suits that we have printed, they are of the highest importance, especially for that fifteenth century which is such a *terra incognita*, both for archæologist and historian. All these volumes are without index, and the bundles without date; the dates even of the general contents of each volume are as vague as they well can be, for such cursory examination as they have had, could reveal only the Christian name of the Chancellor—a slender guide to the chronologist. Therefore the William Salt Society must either transcribe these suits in full or at least extract, print and index the

short notices of Plaintiff, Defendant and subject of the suit listed in these volumes.

It should be mentioned that the first two bundles—two out of 377—have already been printed *in extenso* in the *Calendar of Proceedings in Chancery*, published by the Record Commissioners in 1827 and 1830. These two bundles are addressed to various persons: other bundles of suits are, as far as possible, collected according as they are addressed to particular Chancellors so that dates may be approximately allotted. But take Bundle 7; the suits in this are addressed to the Archbishop of York and may belong to any date from 15° Ric. II. to 10° Hen. VI. or possibly 28°–31° Hen. VI.; and all the Bundles, 31 to 37, are attributable to the years 1465–71 or 1480–3 indeterminately. It is only by transcribing in full, that one can find the date from intrinsic evidence and make any use of these historical evidences, while there is less confusion in the later bundles, owing to the more exact designation of the Chancellor, yet over 100 bundles, addressed to William Wareham, Archbishop of Canterbury, must be left within the wide limits of 1504–1515.

How this great collection was first made is obscure, but it appears to have been brought together from no less than four different sources. The documents consist of bills of complaint, answers, replications, rejoinders, writs, interrogations, depositions and exhibits. As the series of Entry Books and of decrees and orders only begin at a later date, any decree of the Court can only be discovered now if it has been endorsed upon the Bill.

In the majority of cases application is made for a writ of *sub pœna* to be directed to the other party, but others are appeals from local courts, the petitioner praying for a writ of *certiorari* or of *habeas corpus cum causa* to be directed to the court from which the appeal is made.

XIII. *List of Star Chamber Proceedings*, 1485–1558. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1901.

In the present volume we complete the printing of the complete transcripts of the Staffordshire suits contained in this List, down to 1553; altogether these transcripts have filled 450

pages of our Transactions. There is no doubt that these Star Chamber Proceedings are worth printing in full, on account of their very realistic pictures of contemporary life, and apart altogether from their genealogical value, but it must be admitted that with the space at his disposal, the Deputy Keeper has made the best possible use in this List. We have set out here the names of the parties to the suit, the subject of the action, and the place and county affected. The two material omissions are first, an index to the names of the parties and places, and secondly, some sort of order or date.

At present, the genealogist or historian of some parish must hunt through the whole 400 pages of the list to find out if there is anything whatever concerning his quest; and even when he has found his document, it may belong to any date within the above wide limits, for the bundling together of the suits was performed irrespective of date and long after the decree was made. Different parts of a suit have been found in no less than four different bundles, and suits of the time of Elizabeth among those of Henry VIII. In the case of Chancery suits, one has at least the name of the Lord Chancellor to go on, to fix approximately the date, but in these one has only intrinsic evidence derived from knowledge of the parties obtained in other ways. In fact, dating these proceedings is as exacting a work as dating charters of the thirteenth century. It will be noted that in our transcripts, dates have now been affixed in most cases.

The succeeding volumes of the Star Chamber Lists have not yet been printed, and it may be suggested to the Deputy Keeper that they should be proceeded with at an early date.

XIV. *List of Records of the Duchy of Lancaster.* *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1901.

The Records of the Duchy of Lancaster are a repetition, on a reduced scale, of the records of the United Kingdom. We have the Ministers' Accounts, the Ancient Charters, the Patent Rolls, Leases, Court Rolls, Ancient Correspondence; all those matters, in fact, which are recorded in the other 33 volumes of the Lists and Indexes.

An Inventory of these records, printed in the 30th Report of the Deputy Keeper, is now quite out of date, and this volume, with its lists, takes the place of all other catalogues of Duchy Records.

Turning first to the Accounts, the Receiver-General's Account extends from 1399 to 1760. Among the special "views" are annual accounts for Tutbury in 1530–42, and 1580, and a list of the pensions and annuities therein, about 1400. Assize Rolls, Patent Rolls and Ancient Correspondence follow. The Chancery Rolls give us some leases of Duchy lands in Staffordshire *temp.* Henry VII.; but the Ancient Deeds seem to call for the most special remark and study.

Many of these Ancient Deeds must refer to the soke of Newcastle and to Tutbury, Uttoxeter and Needwood—the Duchy lands in Staffordshire. There are over 4,000 of these Deeds, and 330 of them have fine seals attached. Calendars of all of them have been prepared and are in MS. at the Record Office. A further three volumes, full of ancient deeds, have not yet been even calendared in manuscript. There are, too, 364 Royal Charters, dating from Will. II. to Rich. II., which are calendared in the 31st Report of the Deputy Keeper; and another calendar, called "Abstracts and Indexes of Registers, John to Edw. IV.," is a guide to a further mass of Grants, Charters and Leases, *see* pp. 81, 97. All these would repay inspection.

Among the Accounts of sales of Chantry lands are to be found leases of St. Catherine's in Newcastle, Anslow chapel, and St. Mary-the-Virgin in Stoke to Hugh Rathby, John Tailour and to Sir Ralph Bagnold, respectively; but it is curious how few references to Newcastle or Stoke appear on the face of these records. The Court Rolls and early Ministers' Accounts have been listed elsewhere in No. VI; among the Forest Proceedings are several references to Needwood. The other judicial pleadings and proceedings are numerous, but do not relate to periods before the reign of Elizabeth. The *Inquisitions post mortem* of the Duchy are bound in thirty volumes and extend mainly from about 1415 to 1640, though some are earlier. A calendar of these inquest volumes is printed in Volume I of the *Ducatus Lancastriæ* compiled by the Record Commissioners.

A volume, called a *Cowcher*, dealing with the rental of the Honor of Tutbury; a survey of the Honor by Humberton in

1558; a map of Tutbury Castle; and undated, but more recent surveys of the New Park, in Hambury, of Sherholt Park, in Barton, and of Castlehay Park, in Tutbury, should all add to our knowledge of Needwood. Here, too, we find our solitary survey of Newcastle, p. 92.

Among the *Miscellanea*, transcripts of evidences of title, or of pleadings, we have first of all the transcript of the foundation charter of Tutbury Church, dating from William II.

There are also transcripts of deeds or pleadings relating to Tutbury *c.* 1340, to Draycot-in-the-clay, *c.* 1400, and to the descent of the Manor of Yoxall in 1411 (*Rex v. Matilda*, late wife of Sir John Lovell). While from the time of the Stuarts we have Orders concerning the Minstrel's Court at Tutbury, pp. 131–2.

XV. *List and Index of Ancient Correspondence. H.M. Stationery Office*; 1902.

This list also opens up a mine of information for the local historian. It records chiefly letters which have been kept on the files of the Chancery or in miscellaneous bundles; and they are mainly autograph letters written by members of the Royal Family, Bishops, Sheriffs and Barons during the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The first 260 folio pages consist of a list of letters stating from and to whom written. The dates are not given, but as far as possible they have been collected under reigns, and the writer or recipient of the letter is generally sufficiently well known for approximate dates to be determined by the student. The last 150 pages consist of an invaluable index of writers and recipients which greatly facilitates research.

Among the letter writers we find Staffords, Bassets, Bagots, Audleys, Verdons; the bailiffs of Newcastle and Stafford, the Bishops, Treasurers, and Deans of Lichfield, the Priors of Monasteries. It would take too long to extract a complete list even of writers only that come from Staffordshire, but we give some samples and leave it to the Society to decide whether those of the thirteenth century, at any rate, should not be printed in full in our Transactions and a complete list be printed of the remainder collected from this volume. It is curious that

so many of these letters should have had to wait till 1902 for their discovery, and the exact historian of any period will have to go through them with the greatest care before committing himself to some old established views. The following are samples :—

Ancient Correspondence, Vol. 6, No. 15.

Transcript.

HENRY DE ALDITHELEG' TO RALF DE NEVILLE,[1] DEAN OF LICHFIELD.

Dilc̃o ꝛ sp̃ali amico Dño. R. de Neuilł Decañ Licheff Henr̃ de Aldithelegʒ Salt̃m ꝛ dilec̃onem sincerā cum salute. Benignitatē v̄ram de q^{m} ad plenū confido p^{o}cor attencius ꝛ deuote suplicando q^{m}tinus ꝑ amore ꝛ seruic̃o meo simil̃ cum auxilio ꝛ cōsilio Dñi H. de Burg̃ Justic̃ Angł inducatis Dñm Justic̃ Hiberñ ad faciendā m^{i} saisinā de t^{o}ra mea de Dalebuin In Hyberñ (*to give me seisin of my land of Dalebuin in Ireland*) q^{m}m bone memorie J. quondā Rex Angł p^{o} discessū (*flight*) Dñi Hug̃ de Lascy de Hybernia[2] m^{i} concessit. Et si forte contig^{o}it q̃d uos cū ip̄o nō loq^{m}mini si placet faciatis me l̄re lit^{o}as Dñi Reg̃ ad ip̄m de eaď saisina m^{i} facienda. Et sciatis q̃d In ꝑ^{l}a p^{a} ad cur̃ apud Notingehañ accessissem n^{i} opteret me ꝓpt^{o} caus̃ fortuitas In marchia freq̃nt^{o} em^{o}gentes ad q̃ddā parleñtum c̃e h^{e} die ven^{o}is p^{x} p^{o} fest̃ sc̃e Trinit̃. Tm̃ iñ si placet faciatis vt uoƀ In ꝓpetuū ex deuoto deuotior efficiat. Vał.

Ancient Correspondence. Vol. 19. No. 151.

BAILIFFS OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME TO [EDWARD I.] 8 EDW. I.

[*Translation.*]

To the most excellent prince the lord Edward by the grace of God King of England illustrious Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine the bailiffs of the Lord Edmund his brother of Newcastle under Lyme greeting. We have received your mandate in these words. Edward by the grace of God etc. to the bailiffs of Edmund his brother of Newcastle under Lyme greeting. Whereas of late in our parliament at Westminster it was provided and proclaimed by us and our council that the prelates, earls, barons and others of our realm who claim to have divers liberties by charters of our predecessors Kings of England (for the examining and adjudging whereof we had appointed a day in the same parliament), should so use those liberties that nothing should accrue to them by usurpation or occupation nor should they occupy anything to our detriment. We command you as we have

[1] Ralf was Dean of Lichfield 11 Apr., 1214, to 28 Oct., 1222.

[2] Hugh de Lascy, with whom Henry de Audley's elder brother Adam had been serving, fled in July, 1210. It is therefore probable that Adam was then dead and had been succeeded by Henry. A court was held at Northampton, not Nottingham, at Christmas, 1218.

already commanded that you permit our burgesses of Stafford to use and enjoy in form aforesaid their liberties which they have hitherto reasonably used until our next coming into the parts aforesaid, or until the coming of our next itinerant justices of common pleas into those parts, or until we shall otherwise command therein, saving always our right when we shall wish to speak thereof or that you signify to us the cause wherefore you would not or could not obey our mandate already directed to you there anent. Witness myself at Marlborough the 26th day of February in the eighth year of our reign [1280]. We however signify to your most reverend excellency that we have in no wise attempted anything to the prejudice of the liberties of your burgesses of Stafford which they have hitherto reasonably used. But we forbid them to use against the liberties granted to us by charter of the Lord King Henry your father the liberties which they claim to use in the town aforesaid, and whereupon there is a plea in your court before your justices at Westminster between us and your burgesses aforesaid.

Ancient Correspondence, Vol. 42, *No.* 123.

WILLIAM TRUSSEL OF KYBELESDON TO A BISHOP.

Transcript.

T⁹sreu⁹ent piere en dieu pʳ ceo q̃ monš Johⁿn Brabazon fuit oue (avec) ñre sʳ le Roi en ma compaignie tut le temps q̃ ñre dit sʳ le Roi arriua a . . . tote celle viage demʳa en mesme le s⁹uice pount vo⁹ requier t⁹sreu⁹ent sʳ q̃ vo⁹ voilletz comander brief as Tresorer ⁊ Barons . . . descharge dun hobeler a quele ses t⁹res furent assis (*to discharge him of one hobelar at which his lands were assessed*) en le Counte de Leyc̃ come aut⁹s sont en cas semblable T⁹shoñe sʳ le . . . espirit soit garđ de vous.

Par le soen Willm Trussel de Kybelesdon.

XVII, XXII. *List of Inquisitions ad quod damnum,* 1244–1344, 1345–1484. *H.M. Stationery Office,* 1904, 1906.

These two volumes form a complete list of all the enquiries held under writs of *ad quod damnum.* Most of the enquiries relate to the alienation of land, generally to religious uses; but some refer to the closing of public roads, others to the enclosing of woods and others to proposed grants of liberties. "Is the proposed transaction to the damage of the King or of anyone else?" That is the question asked in each case, and almost always answered in the negative. That the enquiries went on being

made in spite of the perpetual answer "No," was due to the fact that a valuation was in each case made of the land to be alienated, etc., and on this value was based the amount of the fines to be made for the licence. *Fiat per finem x marcarum* is a sample of the endorsements, and the licence itself, under the great seal, will often be found in the Letters Patent.

In volume 1911 of our Transactions the *Inquisitions ad quod damnum* down to 1327 have been transcribed in full, and we hope to follow with those of Edward III. at an early date, so that the first of these volumes is almost superfluous so far as we are concerned. The second volume shows a rapid decline in the number of these Inquisitions in the reign of Henry IV., they fall from upwards of 100 a year to 2 or 3. This may have been partly due to the growing hostility to the Church, but was also no doubt caused by the invention of legal fictions which should obviate the necessity for licences.

As a sample of the entries to be found in these lists the following may be taken from 1402.

File CCCCXXXIII, No. 5, "Nicholas Bradshawe, John Colclogh, Hugh de Stafford, knight, Robert Bradshawe, Henry Swan, Robert de Hugford, John Combe, clerk, John Bertrem, clerk, Thomas Gilbert, clerk, Roger Wodeward, chaplain, Richard Smyth of Stone, and Thomas Veysy, chaplain, to grant messuages, land and rent in Walton by Stone and Stone, to the Prior and Convent of Stone, retaining land in Hanley, Kermond (Carmount), Leek, Bromley, Shredicote and Stone." Not much, it will be observed, is omitted save the exact date, the area and valuation and the names of the jurors.

I quote also two other entries from the Appendices, which, in any fuller transcript, run the risk of being forgotten and left out.

18° Ric. II., File CCCCXXV, 25. "William Russhale and his heirs to have view of frank pledge in the manor of Rushall."

21° Hen. VI. File CCCCXLIX, 36. "John Harpur and Eleanor, his wife, to grant a messuage and land in Rushall to the perpetual chaplain of the chapel of St. Michael there, retaining land in Rushall."

This second volume contains also a valuable Index Locorum for the whole list, which will greatly simplify the work of the Parish historian.

XVIII. *List of Admiralty Records. Vol. I.*
H.M. Stationery Office, 1904.

This list includes all the records of those departments which are now represented by the Board of Admiralty down to about 1820, except certain minor records such as Ships' Books, a list of which will be published later. There are the "In-letters" to the Admiralty, the drafts of "Out-letters" from the Admiralty, Accounts, Minutes, Registers, etc.

After 1762 an indexed Abstract of the In-letters was made annually and is of assistance to the enquirer. Before 1763 the Out-letters being in indexed volumes can be easily searched. The services of an ordinary seaman can never be traced unless the name of *a* ship on which he served be known. Then the muster or pay book of that ship will usually give the names of the ship from which he came. The "passing certificates" enable one to follow the service of midshipmen and junior officers after 1744. The pay ledgers, or the half-pay lists, which show the ships on which the officer or warrant officer served are also of use, and these date from 1693. Officers' marriage certificates can also be found among the papers sent in by his widow with application for a pension from 1759 on; and after 1794 the passing certificates generally include a certificate of birth.

The earliest records only date from 1673 and there are few before the middle of the eighteenth century.

XIX. *List of State Papers, Foreign.*
H.M. Stationery Office, 1904.

This list attempts to classify systematically the vast mass of papers referring to foreign countries which have accumulated in the State Paper Office between 1547 and 1782. They are divided into (1) *General Correspondence*, being the letters from English Ambassadors and agents abroad. A calendar of these has been now printed for the years 1547–1603 in 20 volumes, called *State Papers, Foreign.* (2) *Foreign Entry Books*, consisting of the office copies of the letters sent out from England. (3) *Foreign Ministers*, being the letters from Foreign Ministers accredited to the Court of St. James's down to 1688. (4) *News*

Letters and other foreign matter sent home by English agents abroad; matter largely of Charles II. reign and full of gossip and scandal. (5) *Royal Letters* of the formal complimentary type. (6) *Treaty Papers* and (7) Formal *Treaties.* (8) The Archives of the British Legations.

Of the mass of material here listed one may obtain an idea by the two pages of the List devoted to Cyphers and the three pages dealing with the intercepted despatches of the Foreign Ministers in England.

XXI. *List of Proceedings in the Court of Requests. Vol. I H.M. Stationery Office*, 1906.

The Court of Requests was an Equity Court, not unlike the Court of the Star Chamber, or even that of Chancery. The King in Council tried the case and was addressed by the Petitioner. In other words, the Executive and not the Judiciary did justice. The exercise of this power by the Executive came to an end, together with that of the Star Chamber, under Charles I. In intention the right of a plaintiff to obtain trial before the Court of Requests was limited to those who were in any way King's servants or who were so poor, having less than £20 in goods or lands, that justice elsewhere might be unattainable against a rich defendant at common law. However this may have been at first, men of wealth and rank are found as plaintiffs in due course, and, like the Star Chamber, the Court of Requests became an oppression, as well as a menace to liberty.

The entries in this List, which of course has no index, are made as follows:—

Bundle II, 141.	Margt. Haughton *v.*	Prior of Launde and John Gifford.	Church of Pattingham.	Co. Staffs.

and the William Salt Society should some day transcribe them in full as has been done with the early Star Chamber Proceedings.

Some 60 Staffordshire suits occur in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., 15 in that of Edward VI., and 20 in Philip and Mary. The rest, some 170, are in the reign of Elizabeth, and

there are more bundles for her reign still unlisted. The transcription in full of the suits in this volume would fill some 300 of our pages.

XXIII, XXVI, XXXI, XXXIII. *Index of Inquisitions post mortem*, 1509–58, 1558-1603, 1603–25, 1625–60. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1907, 1908, 1909.

These four volumes of Indexes enable one to pick up rapidly any name for which one may be looking. One finds their Christian name, the regnal year of the Inquisition, and the County in which the land was held in chief. One cannot, however, be sure that the Inquisition was held immediately on death, nor is one told the situation of the land or of course the name and age of the heir.

No doubt this system of cataloguing the Inquisition alphabetically is best for the genealogist, but the county historian would probably rather have all in each county collected together and arranged chronologically. On the average there are about three Inquisitions a year for Staffordshire—not a very long or tedious list to glance through for each reign.

It will be remembered that we reviewed the first of these volumes, No. XXIII, in our Vol. XII, New Series, and gave a complete list of names and dates of the Staffordshire Inquisitions of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Philip and Mary. It is not thought worth while to do that for these other three volumes, as any listing of Inquisitions that we do for Staffordshire ought obviously to include at least as much as is shown in the Calendars of Inquisitions already printed by the Deputy Keeper for the reigns of Hen. III., Edw. I., II. and III.; we must at least know that they are immediately *post mortem*, and have the place and name and age of heir recorded.

For those who require to use these Indexes at once, we should mention that the last vol., No. XXXIII, contains an Appendix for the Palatinate of Chester, which covers the whole of the period, 1509-1660, and includes many Staffordshire names which might otherwise be missed.

XXV. *Rentals and Surveys.*
H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

These Rentals and Surveys here listed cover the whole period of English History from Edward II. to Charles II. Some of the *Surveys* are in the form of an Inquisition, and contain the presentments of juries as to value, tenure, and extent. Often the depositions of witnesses are annexed. The ordinary *Rentals* are just lists of tenants with the rents paid, but the "detailed" Rentals are nearly as full as surveys, and often give, besides tenant and rent, the extent and position of the holding.

This printed list is compiled from existing MS. lists, but new matter has been added from many fresh sources. The list of the Parliamentary Surveys of the Commonwealth has been revised and is inserted.

As a sample we give here part of a schedule showing the holders of land in Staffordshire *temp.* Edw. III.; and an Eccleshall rental of the same reign :—

Rentals and Surveys.

[1338–45.] PORTFOLIO, No. 32.

[*Translation.*]

STAFFORD.

Henry Earl of Lancaster[1] holds lands and tenements which are worth by the year, 100*li.* in the county.

Henry Earl of Derby[2] holds lands and tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Schenston.

James de Audeleye, chevaler, holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Hele and Neuport.

Ralph Baron of Stafford, knight,[3] holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Stafford and Madele.

Robert de Ferrars holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Chertle.

John de Sutton, knight, holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Doddele.

Robert de Suinwyton[4] holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Swnwirton.

[1] Henry of Lancaster died 1345.
[2] Henry of Lancaster, his son, created Earl of Derby 1337.
[3] Ralph de Stafford, created Earl of Stafford 1351.
[4] Robert de Swynnerton, clerk, lord of Swynnerton 1338–49.

William de Sharishull, knight, holds tenements which are worth by the year, 40*li.* at Sharishull and Patishell for term of life.

Fulk de Burmyngham, knight, holds tenements which are worth by the year, 20*li.* at Burmyngham.

[1370-71.] PORTFOLIO 14. NO. 72.

[*Translation.*]

RENTAL OF JOHN LE BOTYLLER, knight, in his manor of Ecleshal, made in the 44th year of the reign of King Edward the Third, for the terms of Saint Michael, Saint Andrew, the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

Of William Wolf for the tenements of Thomas Birchemour at term, 3*s.* 0½*d.*

Of the same for the tenement of Richard Northcroft at term, 2*s.* 6*d.*

Of the same for the croft at Wynterlond at term, 9*d.*

Of Richard Wolf for the tenement of Richard Payn at term, 2*s.* 3*d.*

Of John Botiller at term, 18*d.*

Of Thomas Boydyn at term for one virgate of land, 3*s.* 6*d.*

Of the 150 Staffordshire Surveys and Rentals which are indexed in the volume under review, we may mention the following as among the most important for detail and for the novelty of the material supplied to the historian:—Barton-under-Needwood 1327, and *c.* 1550; Cheddleton 1420; Consall and Rownall 1337; Sandwell Priory land *c.* 1570; Wootton-under-Weaver 1547; Agardsley *c.* 1610; Newcastle-under-Lyme 1615, *c.* 1630, 1650, and 1777; Callingwood *c.* 1450; Bramshall 1322; Yarlet 1324. There are nearly 60 folios dealing with the lands of the Paget Barony in 1585; while the rentals and surveys of the lands of the dissolved monasteries are particularly numerous about 1540, and of the Tutbury honour from 1560 to 1650. There are also fairly elaborate surveys of each of the five hundreds in the time of the Commonwealth, and no less than 282 folios of a survey of Needwood Chase at that date.

XXVII. *List of Chancery Rolls in the P.R.O.* *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1908.

There has been a certain rearrangement of the classes of Rolls at the P.R.O. For instance, new classes of Patent Rolls (Supplementary), Close Rolls (Supplementary), and Roman Rolls, have been formed, generally out of what used

to be described as Chancery Rolls, or writs enrolled in the Chancery records. Other rolls again have been added to the Liberate Rolls and Parliamentary Rolls. This has necessitated the printing of this list. It is a list from which no local details can be discovered, and is best described in the words of Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte. "Part I includes the Charter Rolls, Patent Rolls, Fine Rolls, and other rolls, the documents enrolled on which are of a public nature, and were issued under the Great Seal. Part II comprises the Close Rolls, Liberate Rolls, and Redisseisin Rolls, which contained documents of a more private character, the writs being addressed to individuals, and also the Statute Rolls, Parliament Rolls, and Decree Rolls."

XXVIII. *War Office Records.*
H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

The office of the Secretary of State for the War Department was not established until 1794, so that most documents relating to military affairs before that date are to be found elsewhere among other State Papers. We are given in this Index a list of the letters sent out from the War Office to different Commanders and their reports in; the monthly returns of various regiments throughout the Peninsular War; the Chelsea Registers from 1820 onwards; Half-pay and pensions to widows from 1713; Commission books from 1660; Succession Books, Muster Rolls; Casualty Returns; Deserters and Deaths, all generally for the nineteenth century. There are Miscellaneous Books from 1670, Inspection Returns from 1750, Head Quarter Records from the Regiments in America and in the Crimea, War Office Journals and Minutes from 1644 to 1855. Contracts, Warrants relating to Stores, Ordnance, and other details fill up the rest of this list of a mass of material which would seem to be the apotheosis of all the Red Tape of the past.

XXXII. *Index of the Placita de Banco*, 1327, 1328, *in two parts.*
H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Part I, Bedford to Norfolk; Part II, Northampton to York, etc.

A complete list or index of the Plea Rolls, even of the King's Bench side alone, is an impossible task. A list for these two

sample years fills these two volumes of over 400 pages each, and then the entry is the barest possible—the names of the litigants, the place or subject of the action, the year and law term, and the number of membranes of the Roll.

We are apt to pride ourselves that we in Staffordshire, at any rate, have done what no other County has done ; that we have put the vast mass of the records of the King's Bench and Common Pleas before the public in some twenty volumes of the William Salt Society. This is unfortunately far from being the case. Careful inspection of this list shows us that General Wrottesley in these two years copied only one suit in eight. Let the reader refer to our Volume XI ; the transcripts are not given much more fully than in this list ; for the year 1327, twelve Staffordshire suits, and twelve only, are given. At the risk of overburdening these reviews, I give the following 100 suits for that same year of which the General took no notice. They have all the appearance of being equally as interesting as those we have printed. If the records of all the other years have been treated in similar manner, there will be work for the William Salt Society still to do 100 years hence.

Plea Rolls, 1327.

Those marked with an asterisk are printed in Vol. XI, pp. 1–12.

John de Aslakeby, clerk, *v.* Willam, abbot of Burton-on-Trent, for arrears of rent.

Edmund de Bereford, *v.* William de Norton and others, for trespass at Humelegh (Himley).

Edmund de Bereford, *v.* Robert le Rydare of Duddele and others, for trespass at Humelegh.

Henry de Bisshebury, *v.* Hugh, rector of Bisshebury, for arrears of rent.

The same, *v.* William de Chetewynde and others, for debt.

The same, *v.* John de Marham, Luke de Oxeleye and Henry le Bailliff of Oxeleye, for detention of beasts.

John, son of William le Bonde of Bylynton, *v.* Richard de Burgh of Haleghton (Haughton) and Christiana his wife, for waste in Bylynton.

Richard de Braybrok, parson of Cranesle, *v.* Ralph Basset of Weldon & Joan his wife, for the Manor of Madele Alphon.

The abbot of Buldewas, *v.* John de Ipstones, for debt.

William de Burgo, *v.* Henry de Burgo, for waste in Cowelegh.

The abbot of Burton, *v.* John, son of Henry de Congelire, chaplain, for account.

The same, *v.* William de Dacre, parson of Prestecote, for debt.

William, abbot of Burton, *v.* Henry Dycon of Assheburn, for account as bailiff in Burton.

The same, *v.* Hugh, son of Walter Wyther, and Ellen his wife, for land in Ilum.

The same, *v.* Walter Wyther of Ilum and Joan his wife, for land.

John de Burwey, *v.* Walter, son of Robert de Burwey, for trespass at Hamstalrydeware.

Adam de Cank and Margery his wife, *v.* William le Somenour of Stafford, for a tenement in Stafford.

William de Clifton, clerk, *v.* Nicholas de Lychefeld, prebendary of Bobenhull in the church of St. Chad, Lichfeld, for debt.

*Peter de Columpna, precentor in the church of St. Chad, Lichfield, parson of Bisshopes Ichynton, *v.* Adam de Walton, parson of Mitton, vouchee of William de Walton of Fulfen.

Thos. Cons of Luyton, *v.* John, son of Richard de Sutton, for debt.

Richard de Cumberford, *v.* Richard de Vernoun, Kt. and Henry Bishop, for detention of beasts.

Nicholas, abbot of Cumbermere, *v.* William, abbot of Burton, for waste in Alstanesfeld.

The same, *v.* the same, for money transactions with the Friscobaldi.

Peter de Daddesleye (Dods Leigh), *v.* Nicholas Marreye and Joan his wife, for a tenement in Legh.

The exor of the will of Ralph de Dadelond, *v.* Stephen de Blorton and others, for detention of wool.

The same, *v.* Thomas de Furnival of Alueton and Robert le Beek of Tene, for debt.

Nicholas de Denston, *v.* William de Greneleye and Sybil his wife, for a tenement in Bromleye Bagot.

The abbot of Deulacres, *v.* Richard de la Chaumbre, parson of Legh, for detention of corn and beans.

Richard Dyot of London, *v.* Roger de Bodenham, for debt.

Henry, son of Richard le Fullour of Barton, chaplain, *v.* John Gentil and others, for trespass at Lichefeld.

Peter Gerard of Shrewsbury, merchant, *v.* Thomas de Furnivall the younger, for debt.

Thomas, son of William Gerveyse of Nether Penne, *v.* Robert de Haggeleye and Alice his wife, for waste in Nether Penne.

William Griffyn of Colton, *v.* Robert Griffyn of Colton, vouchee for Henry Colemon, for land.

Alice, late the wife of William de Harpeleye, *v.* Roger de Tackeleye, for dower in Lychefeld.

*William de Hikelyng, *v.* William, son of William de Frodeswall, for land in Croswelle.

Roger Hillar, parson of Alrewych (Aldridge), *v.* William Ters of Walshale & John Leverich, for debt.

The King, *v.* Roger, bishop of Coventry, for presentation to the prebend of Colewych in the church of St. Chad, Lichfield.

The same, *v.* Thomas Knokyn, for presentation to the same prebend.

John de Knyghteleye, *v.* Richard de Hichekok, for detention of a horse at Horsebrok.

John de Kynardeseye, *v.* Henry de Ednaston, chaplain, for account.

The same, *v.* the Prior of Trentham, for debt.

John, son of William de Kynardeseye, and Joan his wife, *v.* William Bryan, parson of Tatenhull, for the manor of Great Lockesleye.

*Alina, late the wife of Richard de la Lee the elder, *v.* Richard de la Lee, for dower in Berleston.

Reymond, cardinal deacon of New St. Mary's, parson of Leek, *v.* Nicholas de Shepeye of Rolleston and Walter de Busseby, for debt.

Reynold de Legh, *v.* William de Venables and Richard de Venables, for debt.

Roger, bishop of Coventry, *v.* Nicholas de Ambrighton (Amerton), for land unspecified.

The same, *v.* Master Robert Bernard and Master Nicholas de Gutmundele, for trespass.

*The dean and chapter of Lichfield, *v.* Robert de Tene and Hugh de Pesale, for debt.

Walter de Lincoln of Nottingham, *v.* Robert le Beek of Tene, for detention of wool.

Isabel, late wife of Henry de Lyndelay of Alkemunton, *v.* Thomas de Furnivall of Alueton, for debt.

*Roger de la Mare and Agnes his wife, *v.* Robert de Stepelton and Isabel his wife, for dower of Agnes in Great Barre of the donation of Philip de Stepelton her first husband. The defts. vouch to warranty William de Frome.

Master Roger le Mareschal, canon of Lichfield, *v.* John, parson of Uttokeshather, for debt.

John Maufras of Lichfield, *v.* Margaret de Witteleye of Lichfield for a messuage in Lichfield.

Henry de Morf, *v.* William de Stretton, parson of Upton, for a tenement in Morf.

Adam de Mucleston and Joan his wife, *v.* William de Weston, chaplain, for the manor of Mucleston and advowson of the church.

Roger de Okoure and Christiana his wife, *v.* William, parson of Enefeld, for the manor of Okoure.

John le Parkere of Rolleston, *v.* John, son of John le Parkere of Rolleston, for a tenement in Rolleston.

Master Robert de Patrica, *v.* Master Robert Bernard, vicar of Bathekewell, for detention of writings obligatory.

The same, *v.* Master John Clarel, archdeacon of Stafford, for arrears of rent.

*Joan de Peyto, *v.* John, son of William Trussel of Cubbesdon (Kibbles-

ton), for debt. The same, *v.* the same and William Trussel of Cubblisdon, for arrears of rent.

Roger de Pype of Lichfield, *v.* Roger le Goldsmyth of Gloucester, for a messuage in Lichfield.

John de Pirye, *v.* Joan, late the wife of Thomas de Botetourt and William Molden, for detention of beasts.

*William de Pirye, *v.* William Hawoton and others, for land in Pirye.

William, son of Richard de Pirye, *v.* Robert, son of Guy de Wyrleye, and Alice, late wife of Guy de Wyrleye, for land in Pirye.

Hugh Plash, *v.* Peter, son of Peter de Grete, for arrears of rent.

*William de Podemor and Agnes his wife, *v.* Henry, son of Matthew de Hurnleye, for dower in Hopton.

Richard, son of Richard de la Pole of Hertyndon, *v.* Ralph, son of John Rychard of Grendon, for account.

Nicholas de Rolleston, *v.* William Davy de Tuttebury the elder, for debt.

Ralph, son of Alexander de Rothewell, *v.* William, vicar of Shenston, for debt and detention of chattels.

*John de Ruycroft, *v.* Robert de Esenyngton and others, for trespass at Hulton.

William de Ruycroft, *v.* Richard Osbernes and others, for trespass at Sareshull.

*Isabel, late wife of Thomas de Rydeware, *v.* Walter, son of Thomas de Rydeware, for dower in Joxhale and Hamstal Rydeware.

The same, *v.* Ralph de Twyford chaplain, for land in Edenynghale.

*The exors of the will of Thomas de Rydeware, *v.* John Symound, for account as bailiff in Hamstal Rydeware.

Alice, late wife of Adam, son of Alfred de Little Sardon, *v.* Agnes de Stretton and others, for trespass at Little Sardon.

Robert de Shakenhurst, *v.* John de Hinkeley, Kt., for debt.

Nicholas de Shepeye, parson of Rolleston, *v.* Robert Touk, for detention of beasts.

*Simon, son of Thomas de Slindon, *v.* Richard, son of Adam de Crassewalle, for customs and services for a tenement in Stafford.

Philip de Somervil, *v.* Walter, son of Thomas de Rydeware Hamstal, for wardship in Netherton, during the minority of the heir of Thomas de Redewere Hamstall.

Laurence Spicer of Nottingham, *v.* William Davy of Tuttebury, the elder, for debt.

John de Stalbrok, *v.* John de Cotes, for a pond in Dodynton and Cotes.

Randolph, son of William de Tetusworth, *v.* Henry, son of William de Tetusworth, for a tenement in Leek.

William de Thamenhorn and Alice his wife, *v.* Thomas, parson of Blithefeld, for a tenement in Thamenhorn and Herton.

Thomas de Thorp, chaplain, *v.* the prior of Tutbury, for rent.

The exors of the will of Master Walter de Thorp, *v.* William de Burgo, for debt.

*Robert de Throkemarton and Richard atte Well, of Everdon, *v.* John le clerk of Bobynton, for detention of a writing obligatory.

The exors of the will of John de Triple, *v.* Albert de Burton-on-Trent, for a writing obligatory.

*John Trussel and others, *v.* John, son of William Trussel the younger, for debt.

The prior of Tutbury, *v.* Adam le Noreys and William, his son, for neifty.

Master Thomas de Tyffunde, *v.* Prior of Tutbury, for arrears of rent.

Ralph Underwood of Southam, and William le Heuster, *v.* Roger le Glasman of Bromleyabbe and Robert Gerry, for account.

*Roger de Verdun, clerk, *v.* John de Brikhull, parson of Staundon, for arrears of rent.

The prior of Ware, *v.* Robert Touk, Kt., for debt.

William de Weston, *v.* John de Brikehull, parson of Staundon, and others, for debt.

William de Weston Jones, *v.* Roger de Levinton and Roger Le Freman, of Levynton, for debt.

The exors of the will of Adam del Wode, *v.* Simon, son of Ralph Basset, of Sapecote, for account.

William del Wode, clerk, *v.* William Pyn, and John, son of Adam le King, for detention of an ox at Bothum.

William atte Wode, of Huntyngdon, *v.* John Cadiou of Huntyngdon, for waste in Huntyngdon.

*Richard, son of Richard Wolrich, *v.* Adam and William, sons of Richard Wolrich, for land in Great Sondon.

*Clement de Wolvernehamptone, clerk, *v.* Robert de Gresebrok, and *v.* the exors of the will of Fulk de Penebrugge, for debt.

The same, *v.* Richard, son of Henry de Russhale, for detention of a charter.

Christiana, daughter of Richard le Wrighte of Colton, *v.* Robert, son of Agnes Geffrey, for half a messuage in Colton.

The exor of the will of Master John of Wynton, *v.* John de Blaby, Henry de Colton and Master Robert Prymme, of Lichfield, for debt and account.

Thomas, son of William Wyther, *v.* Robert, prior of Tutbury, for land in Overmast Matherfield.

XXXIV. *List of Ministers' Accounts.* No. 76. Part ii. *H.M. Stationery Office*, 1910.

The Accounts here indexed cover the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., and are increased enormously towards the end of the latter reign by the administration of Monastery lands. The work, indeed, became so heavy that a Court of General Surveyors and a Court of Augmentations had to be started to cope therewith.

In this list all the various Ministers' accounts, the terminal dates of which fall in the above reigns, are included, whether they be from the General Series, the Duchy of Lancaster, or the Augmentation office; but the general accounts of the Court of Wards have not been included owing to the temporary character of the Crown's interest.

As a sample of these accounts we give the following, translated in full into English:—

Ministers' Accounts. Henry VII. No. 1846.

BREWODE. [1484-5.]

ACCOUNT OF HENRY BIKFORD, collector of rents and farms, for one year, Michaelmas 2 Richard III., to Michaelmas 1 Henry VII.

Arrears. 110*li.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

Rents of assize—
Of divers rents, with works and services and for "le Pynfold," and land in Horsbroke, Halfcoltesplek Marshalplek, etc.
Total 31*li.* 17*s.* 9¾*d.*

New rent—
Thomas Smyth's forge, 4*d.*

Issues of the manor—
Pannage called *Grestak*, 15*d.*

The farm with the fishery—
Farm of demesne lands of Kyrrymore; views of frankpledge with *frythsilver* of Brewode, Horsbroke, Engleton, Somerford, Gunston, Hyde, Bromehale and Chyllyngton, mills, etc. Total 27*li.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

Perquisites of court—
Two views, eight courts, etc. 44*s.* 5*d.*

Issues of lands in the lord's hands by reason of minority—
Elizabeth Bukyngham and other wardships 26*s.* 8*d.*
Total of receipts 172*li.* 17*s.* 9¾*d.*

Decrease of rents and farms—
Decay of rents in Coltsplek and Marshalplek, Kyrrymorelane, Walyord, Barreyord, etc. Total 6*li.* 0*s.* 3¾*d.*

Fees and wages, with expenses of the steward. Total 4*li.* 18*s.* 6½*d.*

Costs of the park paling—
For repairs 23*s.* 4*d.*

Allowance of moneys by sign manual of the lord—
For horses, etc. 35*s.* 8*d.*

Livery of moneys—
To John Hals and Richard Shirbourn, receivers, 42*li.* 11*s.* 0*d.*

Total ... ... 56*li.* 8*s.* 10¼*d.*
And he owes ... ... 116*li.* 8*s.* 11½*d.*
Allowed to him ... 5*li.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*

Respited—
Respited for divers reasons 58*li.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

Remainder charged upon divers persons 53*li.* 2*s.* 5*d.*

Brewood, as one of the manors of the Bishopric, was in the hands of the Crown during the vacancy after the death of one Bishop and before the consecration of the next; and again during a vacancy in 1521–2, and again in 1529–32. Besides the Brewood Account given above, we have similar important accounts in these years for Lichfield, Eccleshall, Blore, Beaudesert, Haywood, Rugeley, Cannock, and Whittington. While from 1537 to 1547, there are also accounts for the Monastic lands of all the Staffordshire houses.

The imprisonment and execution of Edward, Earl of Warwick, in 1485–1499, and the debts and attainder of James, Lord Audley, in 1497, provide us with accounts of Shenstone, Pattingham, Perry Bar and Walsall, during some of the years 1488 to 1533, and of Audley, Betley, Tunstall, Chesterton, Horton, Norton and Alstonefield, 1493–1540, of which the following is a sample:—

Ministers' Accounts. Henry VII. No. 679.

AUDELEY. [1492–3.]

ACCOUNT OF HUMFREY STANLEY, knight, husband of Ellen de Lee, as in right of the same Ellen, and of Thomas Smyth, joint reeves (*prepositi*) there, for one year from Michaelmas 8 Henry VII.

Arrears—
On last account 21*li.* 5*s.* 8¼*d.*
Rents of assize, yearly 45*li.* 11*s.* 4½*d.*
Rent of lands late John Marshall's 22*s.* 4½*d.*

Of Boyleshall late in tenure of Johnt Smyth, 40*s.*; Tallage, 60*s.* Rent called *le Stuth*, 70*s.*, falling every third year, not due this year; a messuage where the gate of the manor formerly stood, sometime leased to Thomas Lovett, 8*s.*; a tenement late in the tenure of Richard Thekenes, 13*s.* 4*d.*; a cottage formerly part of the lands of Boyleshall, late in the tenure of Edward Kylmill, then leased to Lucy his widow, 2*s.*; one acre in Knotton More, otherwise Bugnall (Bignall) formerly leased to John Smyth, 12*d.*; a cottage, next the churchyard, formerly leased to William Smyth, 3*s.*; sale of autumn works, 19*s.*; rent of the messuage, formerly Margaret Tuchett's, 9*s.* Total 54*li.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

Increase of rents—

Nicholas Byrons for land next Southcleff, formerly leased to William Byrons, 1*d.*; a cottage formerly in the tenure of John Tatynhale, with a croft called Sutbisyded leased to John Smyth, 4*d.*; Robert Witawgh for a pasture in Talke called le Prestesmore, 6*d.*; Richard Parker, 12*d.* Total 23*d.*

Farm of demesne lands—

Of Southwolfurside, formerly leased to William Smyth, 19*s.*; five "londes" formerly Thomas Crokett's in Southwolfurside, for so much land in Almore Mede,[1] by exchange between John late Lord Audeley and the said Thomas, formerly leased to Richard Smyth, 16*d.*; Northwolfursyde late in the tenure of Thomas Lovett, 13*s.* 4*d.*; one acre there, formerly Thomas Crokett's, by exchange for a meadow called Sychemedowhed, late in the tenure of Thomas Lovett, 18*d.*; Bromehey, formerly leased to William Smyth, 12*s.*; Ladie Hayes and Marchallmedewe, formerly leased to Thomas Lovett 9*s.* 6*d.*; Hallefeld and Knophull, formerly leased to Thomas Smyth, 19*s.*; Polhey, formerly leased to Richard Parker, 9*s.*; Tryllefeld, formerly leased to Richard Parker, 14*s.*; Knotton More, formerly leased to Richard Panter [*sic*], 6*s.* 8*d.*; Halmore medowe leased to James A'Legh, knight, 12*s.*; Prestysmore, formerly leased to Robert Whitenohowth, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Foxhey, leased to Thomas Lovett and William Smyth, 20*s.*; pasture of the little park, leased to Hugh Eggerton, esquire, 28*s.*; Olokkespole,[2] formerly leased to Robert Tuchett, 20*d.*; Parkemede in the said little park, by Thomas Lovett, 20*s.*; a coal mine in Bygnohull, 2*s.*; a coal mine in Rauenshyll in Bignoo, nothing, and another in Rauenshyll formerly leased to Thomas Smyth, nothing, both being in the hands of the lord. Total 9*li.* 14*s.* 6*d*

[1] Halmer meadow. [2] Hullocks Pool.

Farm of the mill and mill pool—

The mill, 46*s.* 8*d.* ; the pool, leased to Richard Snede, 6*s.* 8*d.*
Total 53*s.* 4*d.*

New rent—

A cottage in the tenure of John Bellyfeld, erected without licence by Richard Alyson, and at his death escheated to the lord, 12*d.*

Sale of wood. None.

[Mem. 1. *d.*] Perquisites of courts—

For court 12 October, 22*s.* (including 9*s.* fine of William son of Richard Vnwyn). Court 26 April, 6*s.* 8*d.* Total 28*s.* 8*d.*

(A note mentions a cow, heriot of Agnes wife of Thomas Smyth of Bygnowe, in the keeping of Margery Tournour.)

Sum total of receipts 89*li.* 14*s.* 2¼*d.*
Whereof.

Allowances with decay and decrease of rents—

One acre in Wulfursyde, being granted to the vicar of Audeley in exchange for an acre in le Conyng', 12*d.* To the vicar for tithe of pasture of the Hay in Brodewood, with other land in the park, 5*s.* ; free rent of Lawrence Fenton and Thomas Damporte for Becheton manor, accounted for by the bailiff of Newall, 2*s.* ; one sparrow-hawk of Hashall manor, 12*d.* ; rent of a cottage called Haukestonys now in the tenure of William Smyth, 13*s.* 4*d.* ; meadow called Cattesbreyne formerly in the tenure of the vicar, 8*d.* ; rent of a cottage formerly in the tenure of Margaret Magott, 22*d.* ; a tenement formerly in the tenure of John Potter, chaplain, 2*s.* 4*d.* ; a cottage formerly in the tenure of John Tatynhalle, 8*d.* ; the free rent of Boyleshall formerly John Tuchet's, 17*s.* 4½*d.* ; tallage there, 1*d.* ; decayed rent of Coknettes yerde, 3*d.* ; a cottage formerly in the tenure of Rose Boydell, now of Lawrence Boleyn, 12*d.* ; a cottage formerly in the tenure of Alice Holdowghter, 2*s.* ; another formerly in the tenure of Alice Hayne, 2*s.* Total 50*s.* 6½*d.*

Wages and fees, with expenses of the steward and receiver at the time of the audit, etc.—

Peter Aldunson, bailiff (2*d.* a day), 60*s.* 8*d.* ; the reeve of this account, 10*s.* ; the steward of the court and the receiver, 13*s.* 3*d.* ; John Frankewell, receiver, for the audit at Heley, 70*s.*; for 19 acres in Talke in the tenure of Thomas Doughey, 5*s.* 1½*d.* 7*li.* 19*s.* 0½*d.*

Livery of moneys—

To John Frankewell, receiver ; arrears of Thomas Smyth, late reeve, 8*s.* 4*d.* ; arrears of William Boughey, late reeve, 26*s.* 4*d.* ; of John Parker, late reeve, 33*s.* 4*d.* ; by John Lovett, deputy of John Parker, 11*li.* 15*s.* ; by Thomas Smyth, now reeve, 47*li.* 17*s.* 8*d.* (including 12*d.* rent of a cottage held by John Byllefeld) Total 63*li.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

Total of allowances and liveries 73*li.* 10*s.* 3*d.*
And they owe 16*li.* 3*s.* 11¼*d.*
Allowed to them 7*s.* 6*d.* And they owe 15*li.* 16*s.* 5¼*d.*

[Mem. 2.] Charged upon William Boughey, late bailiff, arrears, 42*s.* 7½*d.*
Thomas Boughey for a felon's cow, 6*s.*
John Parker, arrears, 38*s.* 4½*d.* Thomas Smyth, deputy of Richard Godeley, late reeve, arrears, 17*s.* 3*d.*
John Lovett, deputy of John Parker, arrears, 18*s.* 5¼*d.*
The vicar of Audeley for a fine, partially pardoned for a pair of "musterdeguernys" sent to Heley, 2*s.* The accountants for arrears, 9*li.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

The other Audley estates follow in equal detail.

The Accounts of the Honor of Tutbury, including Rolleston, Barton, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Agardsley, Yoxall, are complete throughout the whole period. From 1502 to 1515 there are accounts of some Staffordshire lands of the deceased Queen Elizabeth, d. 1503; and accounts of Wootton-under-Weaver, dated 1544, and of Drayton Bassett, late Lord Lisle's, dated 1496, are extant. Besides these, the frequent escheats of the Stafford Earldom (Buckingham Dukedom), provide us with accounts rendered to the Crown in 1493, 1507–10, 1520–5, for Stafford, Madeley, Norton in the Moors, Packington, Water Eaton, Blymhill, Darlaston, Tittensor, Barlaston.

It will be seen from the samples given that these Ministers' Accounts are of the greatest importance, both for Parish History and for genealogical work on yeoman families. When it is remembered that each of the above samples is the expansion of a single line in a page of fifty lines, in an unindexed volume

of 350 pages; and that this volume only deals with one uncalendared class of records through a period of sixty years, one obtains some faint conception of the mass of unexplored material there is still awaiting the county historian. Apart from the samples here given, no one has ever yet looked at these records; indeed, he could hardly have known of their existence until the publication of this List in 1910.

THE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS OF THE SWYNNERTONS OF CO. STAFFORD.

(1086–1122.)

THE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS OF THE SWYNNERTONS OF CO. STAFFORD.

(1086–1122.)

Domesday Book tells us that in 1086 two adjoining fees of Robert de Stafford in North Staffordshire, namely, Standon and Swynnerton, were held by two tenants named *Brien* (Brian) and *Aslen* (Alan).

It further tells us that these same two tenants held also adjoining portions of the manor of Rauceby in Lincolnshire, under the same overlord, Robert de Stafford.

The names of these tenants, Brian and Alan (or Aelen) both suggest descent from a family hailing from Brittany.

Robert de Stafford I. died in 1088, in the cowl of a monk, at Kenilworth Abbey. None of his extant charters in the Kenilworth Cartulary are witnessed by either of these two tenants. The charters of his immediate successors are, however, generally witnessed by *their* successors, and invariably their names occur close together in the test clause, fitz-Brian first, and fitz-Alan ("Aelen") next in order, which is evidence that in 1086, the date of the Domesday Survey, these two tenants had been only newly enfeoffed,[1] and that they were probably brothers.

Let us put this evidence succinctly thus :—

1. They were probably both from Brittany.
2. They were both apparently newly enfeoffed in 1086.
3. Their Staffordshire fees, Standon and Swynnerton adjoined.
4. They also held adjoining lands in the same manor in Lincolnshire.

[1] North Staffordshire was only finally conquered about 1072, after which, for some years, the country must have lain waste.

5. Their manors in both counties were held under the same overlord, Robert de Stafford I., who died 1088.
6. Their sons are generally associated in the witness-clauses of various charters of Robert de Stafford's successors.

If brothers, Brian must have been the elder of the two, because:—

1. Robert de Stafford I., enfeoffed him in seven manors, but Alan only in two.
2. Fitz-Brian always precedes Fitz-Aelen in the attestation clauses of the Stafford charters of the next generation.

Beyond this statement, namely, that Alan de Swynnerton was probably a brother of Brian de Standon (1086), it would not be safe to go; nor do we know whose sons they were. From the fact, however, that their names, or rather those of their immediate descendants, frequently appear in the charters of the de Staffords in the Kenilworth Cartulary, coupled with the further fact that Brian named one of his sons Ralf as if in honour of Ralf de Toesny, his overlord's famous brother, and that Aelen, or Alan, named one of his sons Robert as if in honour of his overlord, Robert de Toesney de Stafford, General the Hon. G. Wrottesley and the late the Hon. and Rev. Canon Bridgeman were both led to infer that the Standons and the Swynnertons were related to their chief lord Robert de Stafford; but in what way related, history, so far, has not revealed.

In tracing the successive generations of a family it is often of the utmost importance to bear in mind that the eldest son and heir receives his baptismal name in accordance with a fixed rule which seldom deviates. This rule, as in the case of the Standons, sometimes demanded that the heir should carry his grandfather's name. Usually, however, he bore the baptismal name of his father. "They called him Zacharias after the name of his father." Among the *senior* branches of the Swynnerton family this latter rule was observed most strictly and consistently. Only on the death of the heir without issue, or on failure of any issue at all, there came in the new name, and whenever that happened the new name started a new series of names for eldest sons in strict accordance with the same law. How came it to

pass then that Aelen, or Alan, de Swynnerton, the founder of the Staffordshire Swynnertons, was succeeded by a succession of five *Roberts* in the ensuing five generations? Of course there must be an Alan missing, a second Alan, who, dying without issue, possibly *in vitâ patris*, was succeeded by a brother and heir named Robert.

It is the object of this article, by evidence only just short of demonstration, to restore the missing Alan, or Aelen, to the pedigree.

With regard to the first Alan, to him of the Domesday Survey, it is not at all improbable that as he advanced in life, his eldest son Alan having predeceased him, he put his second son Robert in seisin at Swynnerton, reserving to himself an annuity from his estates in accordance with a practice common enough in those days, and if so, then he will be identical with "Alanus" who, with some other surviving Domesday tenants, witnesses a charter of Ernaldus filius Vitalis in the Stone Cartulary bearing date 1136.[1] It is a Hilderston charter, Hilderston is quite near Swynnerton, and all the lay witnesses are local magnates, those still surviving from Domesday being, besides "Alanus," Ulviet, the lord of Maer (Uviet, or Huviet, probably brother to Ormus), Ormus the thane of Darlaston, Siwardus tenant (probably) at Longton (see "Deed of Alina de Darlaston, *Hist. MSS. Commission*, 10th Report, Part IV, 1885), and Goderick of Stoke near Stone. (*Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, pp. 22–23.)

II.

It seems very probable then, that the son and heir of Alan de Swynnerton of Domesday (1086) must have been another Alan. But do we hear of any such Alan living in or near Swynnerton and capable of fulfilling the necessary conditions of the case? Decidedly yes.

Adjoining Swynnerton lay the great parish of Stone, famous for its Priory founded at the instance of Henry I.'s powerful finance minister, Geoffrey de Clinton, the great parish church of which was also the mother church of the church of Swynnerton.

[1] *Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, p. 23. Vitalis was himself Domesday tenant of Hilderston under Robert de Stafford.

The actual founder of the Priory was Enisan de Walton, and Walton was a manor in the said parish of Stone. Enisan de Walton had a son and heir, Ernald. But he had also a daughter named Eylina, and Eylina de Walton had married one Alan, who was almost certainly Alan fitz-Alan of Swynnerton. Considerably before the year 1130, however, Eylina and her husband had parted with those lands in the manor of Walton which her father had conferred on her in frank marriage, for they gave them, or sold them, to the Church and Canons of Stone. There are four extant charters which record this gift and which have been printed in original and in full in the second volume of the William Salt (Staffordshire) Archæological Society. For the purposes of this enquiry I make use of these four charters as follows:—

CHARTER I.—In a charter of Enisan de Walton and Ernald his son and heir, concerning additional lands which they had been induced to part with and in which Elina's gift or sale is confirmed, dated *c.* 1130, the transaction is thus referred to:—"And in my manor of Walton we concede to the Canons of the aforesaid church, likewise in alms, and with the same liberty, all the land, with the men, and its appurtenances, which Alan my son-in-law, and my daughter his wife, sold to them, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands, with demesne, and the meadow-land (*pratum*), which Enisan had given in marriage to his daughter aforesaid."[1]

CHARTER II.—In the confirmation of the suzerain, Nicholas de Stafford, *c.* 1130, the donation is thus referred to:—"We concede also in alms and in similar liberty in Waleton manor all the land which Alan, the son-in-law of Enisan, and his wife, the daughter of the same Enisan, sold to the aforesaid Geoffrey (de Clinton) similarly for the work of the aforesaid Church, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands with demesne, and the meadow-land, which Enisan had given in marriage to his daughter aforesaid."[2]

CHARTER III.—In Ernald de Walton's acknowledgment of these gifts, dated *c.* 1135–1140, we have:—"And

[1] *Staff. Coll.*, II, 201. [2] *Ibid.*, 204.

in Walaton (my father) conceded to the same Canons in alms the whole land with the men, and its appurtenances, which Alan, my brother-in-law, and his wife, my sister, sold to them, namely, one *wara* and two cotlands, with the demesne and the *pratum*, which he had given to her as patrimony, the half also of the whole wood which pertains to Walaton."[1]

CHARTER IV.—In another confirmation made by Robert de Stafford, the suzerain, much later in the century, we read:—"Ivo de Waleton and Robert his heir have conceded and confirmed all the donations and sales which their predecessors, namely, Ernald, and Enisan, and Eylina, daughter of the said Enisan, made to the Church and Canons of Stone."[2]

The name "Aslen" occurs under various forms. It is Aslen, Eelen, Ehelen, Esluen, Aelen; but, as Eyton points out, it is also Alan, as in Robert de Stafford's charter of *c.* 1160, where *Robertus filius Alani* is Robert de Swynnerton.[3] Nor is this the only instance. In a deed of Alice, Lady of Hopton, co. Stafford, which passed between 1184 and 1190, this same Robert de Swynnerton again meets us as Robert fitz-Alan (*Robertus filius Alani*).[4]

Thus comparison and analogy show that the Domesday "A(s)len" de Swynnerton's eldest son and heir must have been named Aslen too. Documentary evidence proves that any such eldest son and heir must have died without issue before 1130.[5]

Enisan de Walton had a son-in-law named "Alan," and the evidence of Charter I goes to prove that he was dead before 1130, because his name does not appear therein, in the character of either principal or witness, nor yet his wife's.

Again, the boundary of the manor of Walton "runs with"—is co-terminous with—that of the manor of Swynnerton, and for the heir of Swynnerton to marry a daughter of the lord of

[1] *Staff. Coll.*, II, 206.
[2] *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, Part I, 16. Eyline would appear to be the feminine of Eylin, Eelen, Esluen, Aslen, or Alan.
[3] *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 261.
[4] *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 229.
[5] *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, Part II, p. 2.

Walton, was likely enough. If, therefore, the Domesday "A(s)len" de Swynnerton had a son A(s)len, he, no doubt, was identical with Enisan de Walton's son-in-law "Alan."

That Alan of the four Charters above quoted died without issue by his wife Eylina may be safely assumed, because the fact that her father Enisan, and his heir Ernald, to whom her land should have reverted, and *their* direct descendants (not *hers*), confirmed her gift, shows it. Nay, the very circumstance of her parting with her *patrimony* to the monks of Stone at all, proves it. Women have always been far more pious than men, and it was not at all uncommon for childless women, owning property in their own right, to alienate it to religion before they died. Thus Petronilla, daughter and coheiress of Alina de Darlaston and wife of Robert de Sugnall, co. Stafford, in the time of Richard I. and King John, having no children by her husband, gave lands of her own inheritance to the monks of Stone.[1] Thus, too, Margery de Caldwalle, the childless first wife of John de Swynnerton of Hilton (II), gave her maternal inheritance to the monks of Trentham (1345).[2] These women left their lands to the monks because they had no issue. In like manner, and for the same reason, Eylina de Walton must have left hers to the monks of Stone.

On the other hand, we do not find that any lord of Swynnerton confirmed the gift of Eylina. It was not necessary; it would have been surprising if they had, seeing that the land in question was in no sense of their inheritance, nor could be, as Eylina left no children.

To sum up, then, we conclude that Alan, the Norman tenant of Swynnerton, in 1086, had an elder son and heir, Alan or Aelen fitz-Alan, who married Eylina de Walton; that this son, Aelen fitz-Aelen, died without issue by her, and was represented at Swynnerton and Ranceby by a younger brother, "Robert fitz-Aelen," whom we find in possession as early as 1122.[3] Hence Robert, not Aelen or Alan, became the accepted Christian name for the head of the family, and thus we get a succession of

[1] Stone Cartulary, *Staff. Coll.*, VI, Part I, pp. 1–20.
[2] Original deed at Trentham.
[3] *Staff. Coll.*, II.

no fewer than five Roberts as lords of Swynnerton between the years 1122 and 1245.[1]

If I add a word more, it is by way of conjecture, as to the death of Alan and Eylina. The clause concerning them in Charter I, which Eyton dates *c.* 1130, points unmistakably to a transaction which was long past and over. It shows more. It proves that Alan and Eylina had been dead for some time. They must have been cut off comparatively early in life, since, as we have seen, Robert fitz-Alan was in possession of Swynnerton so far back as 1122–5. By that time Stone Priory had been brought into subjection to Kenilworth Abbey by Geoffrey de Clinton, and the foundation of Stone Priory itself, therefore, must be ascribed to a date earlier still. Were Alan and Eylina numbered among the victims of the *Blanche Nef*, in the fatal year 1120, when Prince William and his sister the Countess of Perche, with four hundred and seventy of their companions, perished among the hidden rocks of the Race of Alderney? Beyond the approximate coincidence of dates, and the fact that several of their collateral descendants were of the household and retinue of Plantagenet kings and princes in subsequent times, there is not a tittle of evidence to believe so. It may or may not have been. We might have known more, but for the meagre survival of evidences of that dark period when Stephen's Flemish mercenaries swept over England with fire and sword, arresting all progress, and when public records of priceless value must have been lost beyond recall.

PEDIGREE.

"Aslen" de Swynnerton = (a daughter or sister of the Lord of Tittensor.)[2]
the Domesday tenant. oc. 1086.

"Alan" *ob. s.p.* before 1122. = Eylina, d. of Enisan de Walton. *Ob.* before 1130.

"Robert fitz-Aelen," Lord of Swynnerton. oc. 1122, 1132, 1155.

[1] See Canon Bridgeman's "History of the Swynnertons," *Staff. Coll.*, VII, Part II.

[2] Tittensor adjoining Swynnerton. In 1086, and ever after, Beech was a hamlet in Swynnerton. Beech, however, formed no part of the fee of Swynnerton, it being shown by an inquisition *ad quod damnum* of 2 Edw. III. that it formed a portion of the fief of Tittensor. It had, therefore, probably been acquired by Alan de Swynnerton (I) in marriage. (*Staff. Coll.*, VII, Part II, p. 1.)

On the Pronunciation of the Name.

The Domesday spelling "SULVERTON" (perhaps meant for Sulnerton), (so spelt by the Norman scribe and equivalent to "Suverton" or "Sunerton"), is evidence that the name was not always pronounced "Swynnerton."

A similar form of the name appears in 7 John, 1206, where "Robert de Swinnerton" in his suit *versus* Stephen de Hulton is, in one return, described as "Robert de SOULVERTON" (? Soulnerton).

In a plea of Hen. III. (1264) before the King, John, lord of Swynnerton, is described as "John, Lord of SONNERTON."

In a deed which I possess in original, *temp.* Edw. II., Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton calls himself "Roger de SWONNERTON," and the same spelling appears in certain pleas of 14 Edw. II., 1320, where one of the defendants is "John, son of John de SWONNERTON."

At Hilton, co. Stafford, for centuries in the possession of the Swynnertons, there is a deed of 46 Edw. III., 1372, with a seal on which the inscription is "S. Margarete de SONNERTONE."

The local pronunciation of the name was, and still is (unless the schoolmaster has altered it) SONNERTON, or SINNERTON.

An excellent example of this redundant consonant is seen in a deed of the Trentham Cartulary, in the name *Saville*, where one of the witnesses is William, son of Thomas SWAVILE, Mayor of Newcastle. Dated 1318. The forms SINVERTON and SWINFERTON are further examples of the taste of the day for superfluous consonants.

It would appear then that in "Swynnerton" the "w" was not always pronounced, but that it was mute, as in "answer," "morwening," "sword," "medwo," etc., and if so, as I believe, then the true pronunciation of the name must be "Sonnerton" or "Sinnerton."

Postscript.

In Vol. XII, 245, *Staff. Coll.*, the proof is given that the Standons came from St. Donan in Brittany. This discovery provides quite a fresh clue, and opens up a new field of enquiry.

Emphasis is added by another fact, namely, that, as Mr. Round has pointed out, Enisan is a Breton name, and that Enisan de Walton, like Brien de Standon and Aelen de Swynnerton, must have been also of Breton descent.

Also in a Chell deed, published in *Staff. Coll.* last year (1911), Robert, lord of Swynnerton and of Great Chell, appears as ROBERTUS DE SYNNERTONA. Date *c.* 1230. (*Add. Ch.* 53,580, *B.M.*)

NOTE.—In *Staff. Coll.*, I, 149, the name "Robert fitz Aelen" as taken from the *Liber Niger* (1166) is given as *Robertus filius Aelem*, and from the *Liber Rubeus* as *Robertus filius Aleur*. There is an error in both instances, and it is probably that of the scribes who copied out the original returns. Not *Robertus filius Aelem* and not *Robertus filius Aleur* is the true reading, but *Robertus filius Aeleni*. (Genitive case.)

THE

STAFFORDSHIRE SHERIFFS (1086–1912),

ESCHEATORS (1247–1619),

AND

KEEPERS OR JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(1263–1702).

BY THE HON. SECRETARY.

SHERIFFS OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

1086–1912.

THE sheriff or shire-reeve (*Vice-Comes* or viscount) represented the King in the county. He collected the crown rents and accounted for them; collected the fines of litigants, or the amercements of offenders, which had been imposed by the Royal Justices; executed the King's writs; seized escheated estates, and gave seisin to the heirs when of age; sat as judge in the county and hundred courts, and generally acted as the King's agent.

In some cases there was a tendency for the shrievalty to become hereditary in one family, and we can see signs of this in the Staffordshire list. Probably the strong hand of Henry I. or Henry II. stopped the gradual development of a new hereditary title of viscount parallel in all ways with that of the count or earl. When real hereditary viscounts began in 1440 it was perhaps as a definite assertion on the part of the crown that the county sheriff was an officer of his appointment appointed during pleasure.

The great age of the sheriffs ceased when Edward I. came to the throne. Till then they ruled the county, thereafter they administered it according to order. At one time, for a short period, local feeling, and no doubt resentment at firm directions from Westminster, so far forced the King's hand that the sheriffs became elective, and the county in full court assembled obtained the right to elect (1300–1315). One gathers, however, that the royal officers made things somewhat difficult for the elected sheriff, and that the statutory right to elect became a dead letter even before it was enacted away.

Thereafter the sheriffs were mainly drawn from the local gentry, many, however, being self-made men of originally small rank. During the fourteenth century the sheriff was still a power

in the county, less so in Staffordshire possibly than elsewhere owing to the dominance of the Earls of Derby and Stafford. If they had lost part of their administrative power to the escheators, and even more of their judicial power to the Justices of Gaol Delivery and Justices of the Peace, their position as recipient of the King's writ in every case, and their consequent power as nominator of the salaried knight member of Parliament, preserved their importance.

Till it was forbidden by law in 1372 they had a habit of nominating themselves to Parliament, chiefly, I fancy, to secure the 4*s.* a day. Even when this was stopped it was the friend of the sheriff who secured that acclamation by "the whole county" which effected the election to Parliament. When towards the end of the fourteenth century there arose keen competition to represent the county at Westminster, there was a certain secrecy about the receipt of the writ and date of acclamation that would have been the delight of a modern party organiser.

Then, too, even into Lancastrian times, it was the sheriff who raised the *posse comitatus* and repressed disorder. Whether his responsibility for the safe custody of prisoners was regarded by him as an honour or a burden may be doubtful, but it enters very largely into the business records of the mediæval sheriff. Gradually, however, the position of the sheriff sank. The rise of the Justices of the Peace, and of Quarter Sessions, did away imperceptibly but surely with both the administrative and judicial powers of the sheriff, and by the time that the House of York had thoroughly centralised the government, the position of sheriff had ceased to be one of power and had become one of purely honorary and honourable distinction.

When one finds that the sheriff is always appointed at the same time of year, always serves his whole year, is not changed even at a revolutionary victory or defeat; then one may be quite sure that his personality did not much matter to the conduct of affairs. One can observe that the kaleidoscopic transformations of the Wars of the Roses caused only two irregularities in the list of sheriffs: one in 1471, when a new sheriff was appointed on Edward IV.'s restoration, and one in 1485, when the accession of Henry VII. put one of the all-powerful Stanley clan in something more than nominal control of Staffordshire.

SHERIFFS OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

Except where otherwise stated the information in this list is derived from the *List of Sheriffs*, No. IX of the *List and Indexes*, published by the Deputy Keeper. The information about the personages given in parentheses has been collected by the writer.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
Oc. 1086	Robert de Stadford (Baron of Stafford, *d.* 1088).
In or before 1094, in 1101 and before 1123	Nicholas de Stafford[1] (2nd Baron, *d.* 1133–8, *S.C.*, I, 16; V. i, 9).
Mich. 1123–28 ...	Robert de Stanley[2] (*S.C.*, I, 4).
Mich. 1128–31[3] ...	Miles of Gloucester (Earl of Hereford, *d.* 1143, *D.N.B.*).
Oc. 1132–3	Nicholas de Stafford[1] (*S.C.*, II, 208).
	? ? ?
Before 1154 ...	? Maurice de Tiretei.[1]
Mich. 1154	Robert de Stafford (3rd Baron, *d.* ? 1189).
Mich. 1160[3] ...	Alexander de Claverley,[1] clerk (Dean of Bridgnorth, *S.C.*, II, 190).
? Oc., Feb. 1166 ...	Stephen de ? Beauchamp[1] (lord of Chartley, *d.* 1184), *S.C.*, I, 44.
Easter, 1166[3] ...	Hervey de Stretton (lord of Stretton, 1166).
Mich. 1184	Thomas (fitzRobert fitz) Noel (Justiciar, lord of Ronton).
Mich. 1189	Thomas de Cresswell (of Cresswell, a vassal of Pantulf of Wem).
Easter, 1190 ...	Hugh Bardulf (Justiciar, *d.* 1203, *D.N.B.*).
Mich. 1190—Easter, 1194	Hugh de Nunant, bishop of Coventry (*D.N.B.*).
	Subsheriffs.
Mich. 1190	Robert fitzWaleran.
Mich. 1191	Robert de Nunant (the bishop's brother).
Mich. 1192	Richard Mareschal (a Staffordshire knight in 1204).
	Sheriff.
Easter, 1194—Mids. 1198	Hugh de Chaucumb (of Chalcomb or Saucomb, Northants., Justiciar, *D.N.B.*).
	Subsheriff.[4]
Mich. 1195—Mids. 1198	Thomas de Erdinton.

[1] Not given in the printed list.

[2] Wrongly called "Thomas" in the printed list.

[3] Date wrongly given in the printed list.

[4] The printed list gives Geoffrey fitzPiers as one of Chaucumb's subsheriffs. As though the Viceroy of England could have been a subsheriff!

Staffordshire and Salop.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriff.*
Mids. 1198[1]—23 Oct. 1204...	Geoffrey fitzPiers (Chief Justiciar, 11 June, 1198, Earl of Essex, *d.* 1213, *D.N.B.*).
	Subsheriff for Staffordshire.
Mids. 1198— Mich. 1204	Thomas de Erdinton[2] (*d.* 1218).
	Sheriffs.
23 Oct. 1204 ...	Thos. de Erdinton and Rob. de Hauterive, clerk, as *custodes*,[3] *S.C.*, II, 130.
Before 28 Aug. 1205[1]	Thomas de Erdinton, as *custos* or as sheriff.[3]
(Oc. 1215	Hervey de Stafford, 5th Baron, "who made himself sheriff of Staffordshire by means of the Barons." Erdinton's letter to King John, *S.C.*, II, 170.)
13 Ap. 1216—22 Dec. 1223	Ranulf, Earl of Chester, succeeded Erdinton.[4]
	Subsheriffs.
5 Sept. 1216	John l'Estrange (did not account).[4]
Mich. 1217	Henry de Audley (of Heley, *d.* 1249, see *D.N.B.*).
Mich. 1220	Philip de Kinton (of co. Warwick).
	Sheriffs.
22 Dec. 1223 ...	Hugh Despencer (see *D.N.B.*, did not account).
25 Dec. 1223 ...	William, Earl of Salisbury.[5]
2 Feb. 1224 ...	William, bishop of Worcester (did not account).
Mich. 1224	John Bonet.
3 June, 1227—4 Oct. 1229	Henry de Audley.
	Subsheriffs.
3 June, 1227 ...	John Bonet.
Mich. 1227 ...	Robert de Leie (lord of Leigh).
Mich. 1228— Mids. 1232	William de Bromley.
	Sheriffs.
4 Oct. 1229... ...	John de Munemowe, did not account, (lord marcher, see *D.N.B.*).
7 Nov. 1229 ...	Henry de Audley.

[1] Date given wrongly in the printed list.

[2] In the Plea Rolls, Erdinton is described as "*vice-comes*" as early as 1199.

[3] For both counties, jointly.

[4] No accounts were rendered by the sheriffs from Easter, 1215 till Mich., 1217. The Pipe Rolls are blank during the civil war.

[5] Wm. Longsword, reputed son of Henry II. by Fair Rosamund.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
Mids. 1232 ...	...	Robert de Haya.
11 July, 1232—15 May, 1234	}	Peter de Rivaulx (King's favourite and treasurer 1232–4, see *D.N.B.*).
		Subsheriff.
——		Robert de Haya.
		Sheriffs.
15 May, 1234	...	Robert de Haya.
26 Oct. 1236—18 May, 1248	}	John l'Estrange (lord of Knockyn, Justice of Chester, lord marcher, see *D.N.B.*).
		Subsheriff.
Mich. 1236—Mich. 1237	}	Robert de Acton.
		Sheriffs.
18 May, 1248	...	Thomas Corbet (lord of Caus, co. Salop).
22 Ap. 1250	...	Robert de Grendon (lord of Shenstone and of Grendon co. Warwick).
30 Oct. 1255	...	Hugh de Acoure (of Okeover, *d.* 1268–9).
26 Sept. 1257—3 Nov. 1258	}	Peter de Montfort (lord of Beaudesert, co. Warwick).
		Subsheriff.
——		Richard de Kyngestone.
		Sheriffs.
3 Nov. 1258	...	William Bagot (Knight, of the Hyde, *d.* 1299).[1]
25 Jan. 1260	...	William de Kaveriswell (Knight, of Caverswall, *d.* 1292).
9 July, 1261	...	James de Audley (1st Baron of Heley, lord marcher, *d.* 10 June, 1272, see *D.N.B.*).
10 Aug. 1263	...	Hamo l'Estrange.[2]
In 1264 ...	...	Ralph Basset of Drayton (see *S.C.*, IV, 208 ; slain at Evesham).[3]
3 Feb. 1265	...	Robert de Grendon.
29 Sept. 1267	...	Walter de Hopton (see *S.C.*, IV, 208)[4] (of Tirley Castle, *j.u.*, justice, *d.* 1305).
30 Oct. 1268	...	William de Cavereswell (Knight, of Caverswall).
28 May, 1270	...	James de Audley.[5]
In 1270–1 ...	...	Urian de St. Pierre[6] (see *S.C.*, IV, 208, *d.* 1295).

[1] He was one of the four representatives of Staffordshire at the Parliament of Oxford in this year.

[2] I think l'Estrange was reinstated as sheriff after Evesham, for Grendon, who had made his peace, went as sheriff elsewhere, Aug., 1265.

[3] Omitted from the printed list, but he was perhaps keeper only and not sheriff.

[4] Given as both Roger and Walter on the printed list.

[5] Audley was sheriff for a few days only at this time for he is mentioned as Justiciar in Ireland on 5th Sept., 1270.

[6] Omitted from the printed list.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
10 March, 1271[1]	...	Hugh de Mortimer (of Chelmarsh, co. Salop, *d.* 1303).
23 Jan. 1273	...	Ralph de Mortimer (a son of Roger Mortimer, baron of Wigmore).
		Subsheriff.
——		Robert de Trillec.
		Sheriffs.
10 Aug. 1274	...	Robert de Trillec, on the death of Mortimer.
27 Oct. 1274	...	Bogo (Bevis, Boyce) de Knovill (*d.* 1307).
Oc. in 1277	...	Walter de Hopton (see *S.C.*, VI, i, 83, 256).[2]
25 Oct. 1278	...	Roger Sprenghose (Knight, of co. Salop, *d.* 1304).
2 May, 1286	...	Leofwin fitz Leofwin (or Leon fitz Leon, of co. Salop).
Mids. 1288 ...	...	Robert Corbet (Knight, of co. Salop and of Chorlton, Staffs, *j.u.*).
23 Nov. 1289	...	William de Titteley (previously coroner).
2 July, 1295	...	Thomas de Titteley.
30 Nov. 1295	...	Ralph de Schirlegh.
16 May, 1298	...	Thomas Corbet (of Hadley and King's Bromley, *d.* 1300).
18 Ap. 1300	...	Ralph de Shirle.
1 Oct. 1300...	...	Richard de Harley, elected by the Counties.[3]
„ 1303...	...	Walter de Beysyn (of Ashley and Water Eaton, *d.* 1309).
18 Feb. 1304	...	John de Acton.[4]
1 Oct. 1305 ...	...	John de Dene.
11 Nov. 1307	...	Roger Trumwyne (Knight, of Sandon, M.P., *d. c.* 1325).
15 Nov. 1308	...	John l'Estrange of Ercal.
22 Feb. 1309	...	Hugh de Croft (*d.* 1317).
Oc. 1309–10[1]	...	Hugh de Audley.
25 Oct. 1311	...	Hugh de Croft (*S.C.*, VIII, 122).
28 Jan. 1312	...	Hugh de Audley (the elder, see *D.N.B.*, lord of Stratton Audley, Oxon).
24 Oct. 1314	...	Roger de Cheygny, did not account.
4 Dec. 1314	...	William de Mere (Knight, of Maer and Norton-le-Moors, M.P., J.P., Escheator).
3 Mar. 1315	...	Roger de Cheigny (in arms against the King, 1322).
1 Sept. 1315	...	Ralph de Crophull, seemingly did not act.

[1] Omitted from the printed list.

[2] *See* Eyton's Salop III. Date not given in the printed list.

[3] Malcolm de Harley was Escheator this side Trent, 1290–8.

[4] Between 1303 and 1305 one William del Hull was subsheriff of Staffs. (*S.C.*, VII, 162).

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
27 Sept. 1316 ...	Roger Trumwyne (Knight, of Sandon).
1 Mar. 1318 ...	Peter de Lymesy (did not act).
29 Nov. 1318 ...	Robert de Grendon (Knight, Marshall of the Hall, M.P.).[1]
1 Jan. 1322 ...	John de Swynnerton (Knight, of Hilton, M.P., *d.* 1340).[2]
26 Nov. 1322 ...	Henry de Bisshebury (Knight, of Bushbury, M.P., *d. c.* 1342).[2]
13 Jan. 1326 ...	William de Ercalewe (Knight, of High Ercal, *d.* soon after 1339, when Ercal passed to the Caverswall family).
4 Feb. 1327 ...	Henry de Bisshebury.
27 June, 1327 ...	John de Hynkele (Knight, of Aston-by-Stone, M.P.).[2]
22 Feb. 1330 ...	Henry de Bisshebury.[2]
20 Mar. 1330 ...	John de Hynkele.
5 Dec. 1330 ...	Henry de Bisshebury.[2]
3 Feb. 1333 ...	Richard de Peshale (Knight, of Eccleshall and Peshale, M.P., Escheator and Commissioner, *d.* 1342–8).[2]
23 Feb. 1335 ...	John de Hynkeleye.[2]
26 Mar. 1336 ...	Simon de Rugele (Bailiff of the bishop, and King's yeoman, M.P., Commissioner, *d.* 1349).[2]
28 June, 1338 ...	Richard de Peshale.[2]
30 July, 1339 ...	Simon de Ruggeleye.[2]
8 Jan. 1341 ...	Adam de Peshale (of Horseley, bailiff of the bishop, M.P., slain resisting arrest, 1345).[2]
19 Nov. 1341 ...	Thomas de Swynnerton (Knight, of Swynnerton, M.P., J.P., fought at Crecy, 1313–1361).[2]
22 Nov. 1343 ...	John de Aston (Knight, Lord of Heywood, *d.* 1352–3, accounts till Xmas, 1344).[3]
4 Nov. 1344 ...	Robert de Harle (Knight, of Harley and Willey, co. Salop).

STAFFS. ONLY.

5 June, 1345–61 ...	Henry, Earl of Derby (Earl of Derby, 1337, sucd. as Earl of Lancaster, 1345, Duke of Lancaster, 1357, *d.* 1361).

Subsheriffs.	
Mich. 1345—21 Aug. 1349	Simon de Ruggeleye.[2]
21 Aug. 1349— Sept. 1350	John Blunt.

[1] Elected M.P. for the Parliament of 20th Oct., 1318, and nominated himself again in 1320.

[2] Nominated himself for Parliament.

[3] Nominated his son to Parliament.

Date of Appointment.		*Subsheriffs.*
28 Sept. 1350—25 Oct. 1351		Thomas Adam[1] (lord of Ashbourne, M.P., J.P.).
25 Oct. 1351—15 Ap. 1361		John Musard.[1]
		Sheriffs.
15 Ap. 1361	...	John Musard (Knight, of Missarden, co. Glos., M.P., J.P., Commissioner in the Western Counties).[1]
10 Oct. 1361	...	John de Grisle (Knight, lord of Drakelow and Colton, M.P., Escheator, *d.* 1394–6).
20 Oct. 1361	...	John de Swynerton, of Hilton (J.P., *d.* 1379).
20 Nov. 1362	...	Robert de Grendon (Knight, of Shenstone, M.P., *d.* 1365).[1]
„ 1363	...	John de Perton (Knight, of Perton, M.P., J.P., Escheator, *d.* 1388).
10 Nov. 1364	...	Philip de Luttle (of Lutley, M.P., Escheator, etc.).
27 Nov. 1368	...	Nicholas de Beek (Knight, of Tean, M.P., J.P., Comr., *d.* 1369).
24 July, 1369	...	Henry Puys (promoted from Undersheriff).
5 Nov. 1369	...	Philip de Grendon (did not account).
10 Jan. 1370	...	John de Perton.[1]
5 Nov. 1371	...	John de Gresleye.[1]
12 Dec. 1372	...	Nicholas de Stafford, Knight (of Throwley, *j.u.*, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1394).
7 Nov. 1373	...	John de Verdon, Knight (of Darlaston-by-Stone, M.P., J.P., Comr.).[1]
12 Dec. 1374	...	John Basset of Chetele (Knight, of Cheadle, and of Blore and Grendon, *j.u.*, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1410–1).
4 Oct. 1375	...	Nicholas de Stafford, Knight.
26 Oct. 1376	...	Peter Caveswell, Knight (of High Ercall and Caveswall, 1359–98, *d.* 1398–1412, the last of his race).
26 Nov. 1377	...	William Walshale (of Rushall).[2]
8 Dec. 1377	...	Brian de Cornewaill of Kynlet.[2]
25 Nov. 1378	...	William Coleson.
5 Nov. 1379	...	John Verdoun, Knight.
18 Oct. 1380	...	Thomas Thomenhorn (Knight, of Thamhorn, M.P., *d.* 1421).
14 Nov. 1380	...	Adam Peshale, Knight (of Weston-under-Lizeard, and Peshale, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1419).
8 Dec. 1380	...	Roger de Wirley.
1 Nov. 1381	...	William de Walshale.
„ 1383	...	Humphrey de Stafford, Knight (of Southwick, co. Dorset and of Amblecot, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1413).

[1] Nominated himself for Parliament.

[2] Sheriff of Salop also.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
11 Nov. 1384 ...	William Walshale (of Rushall, M.P., J.P., Escheator; King's Squire, Marshall of the Hall, *d.* 1415–6).
20 Oct. 1385 ...	Robert Mauvesyn, Knight.
18 Nov. 1386 ...	Adomar de Lichefeld (called "le Taverner," M.P., J.P., *d.* 1402–18).
1387 ...	William Chetewyn, Knight (of Ingestre, J.P., dead in 1397).
Dec. 1388 ...	Humphrey de Stafford, Knight (of Southwick).
15 Nov. 1389 ...	William Walshale.
7 Nov. 1390 ...	John Delves (M.P., and Escheator, J.P., son and heir of Henry de Delves of Doddington, *d.* 1394 *v.p.*).[1]
21 Oct. 1391 ...	John Swynnerton (of Hilton, M.P., Escheator, 1349—1426–7).
18 Oct. 1392 ...	William Shareshall, Knight (of Patshull, Shareshill, etc., M.P., J.P., *d.* 1400).
7 Nov. 1393 ...	Adomar de Lichfield.
11 Nov. 1394 ...	Robert Fraunceys, Knight (of Foremark, co. Derby, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1417–20).
9 Nov. 1395 ...	Robert Malvasyn, Knight of (Mauveysin Ridware).
1 Dec. 1396 ...	William Walshale.
3 Nov. 1399 ...	William Shareshull, "afterwards knighted!"
28 May 1400 ...	Robert Mauveisyn, Knight.
8 Nov. 1401 ...	William Neuport, Knight (of Abenale-by-Lichfield, M.P., soldier, *d.* 1417).
29 Nov. 1402 ...	Robert Fraunceys, Knight.
5 Nov. 1403 ...	Humphrey Stafford the younger, Knight (of Hoke, co. Dorset, and of Amblecot, M.P., J.P., Knight of the body to Henry V., 1379–*c.* 1443).
22 Oct. 1404 ...	Robert Fraunceys, Knight.
22 Nov. 1405 ...	William Neuport, Knight.
5 Nov. 1406 ...	William Walshale.
30 Nov. 1407 ...	William Neweport, Knight.
15 Nov. 1408 ...	Robert Fraunceys, Knight.
4 Nov. 1409 ...	John Delves (did not account).
Mich. 1409... ...	Thomas Aston, Knight (of Heywood, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1412–3).
29 Nov. 1410 ...	John Delves (of Doddington and Apedale, M.P., J.P., Escheator, 1373–4—1429).
10 Dec. 1411 ...	Thomas Gyffard, Esq. (of Chillington, *d.* 1420).
3 Nov. 1412 ...	Thomas Dethek (of co. Derby).
6 Nov. 1413 ...	John Bagot, Knight (of Blithfield, M.P., J.P., Escheator, lieutenant of Calais, ambassador, *d.* 1437).
10 Nov. 1414 ...	Robert Bapthorp, Esq. (afterwards Controler of the Household).
1 Dec. 1415 ...	John Delves.

[1] Nominated himself as knight of the shire to Parliamen,t quite illegally.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
30 Nov. 1416	...	Richard Vernoun (knighted in 1418, of Tong and Harlaston, Speaker of the House of Commons, *b.* 1390, *d.* 1452).
10 Nov. 1417	...	John Meverell (of Throwley, M.P., *d.* 1438–43).
4 Nov. 1418	...	William Trussell, Knight.
23 Nov. 1419	...	Humphrey Halghton (of Haughton, M.P., Comr., *d.* 29 Aug., 1420).
13 Oct. 1420	...	William Preston (promoted from Undersheriff).
16 Nov. 1420	...	John Delves (of Doddington, etc.).
1 May, 1422	...	Thomas Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow, M.P., Comr., fought at Agincourt, *d.* 1444–6).
13 Nov. 1423	...	Hugh Erdeswyk, Esq. (of Sandon, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1447–8).
6 Nov. 1424	...	Nicholas Mountgomery the younger, Knight.
15 Jan. 1426	...	John Bagot, Knight (of Blithfield).
12 Dec. 1426	...	Roger Aston, Knight (of Heywood, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1446–9).
7 Nov. 1427	...	Richard Vernon, Knight.
4 Nov. 1428	...	Philip Chetwynd (of Ingestre, *d.* 1445).
10 Feb. 1430	...	Thomas Griffith (of Wichnor, *d.* 1431).
5 Nov. 1430	...	Nicholas Mountgomery, Knight (of Cubley, co. Derby, etc.).
26 Nov. 1431	...	Roger Aston, Knight.[1]
5 Nov. 1432	...	Ralph Egerton (of Wrinehill, M.P., *d.* 1452–3).
„ 1433	...	Thomas Stanley (King's Squire, of Elford and Pipe, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1463).
3 Nov. 1434	...	Robert Strelley, Knight.
7 Nov. 1435	...	Richard Peschale, of Patshull (see *S.C.*, V. ii, 240).
8 Nov. 1436	...	Philip Chetewynd, Knight.
7 Nov. 1437	...	Ralph Basset (of Blore and Cheadle).
3 Nov. 1438	...	Thomas Stanley.
5 Nov. 1439	...	John Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1449).
4 Nov. 1440	...	Humphrey Lowe (of Tresel and Seisdon).
„ 1441	...	Richard Archer (of Statfold).
6 Nov. 1442	...	William Mitton (of Weston-under-Lizeard, M.P., J.P., Lancastrian, 1415–1489).
4 Nov. 1443	...	Nicholas Mongomery (of Cubley and Marston-Montgomery, co. Derby).
6 Nov. 1444	...	Thomas Blount, Knight (treasurer of Calais, son of Sir Walter Blount, *D.N.B.*).
4 Nov. 1445	...	John Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1471).
„ 1446	...	Humphrey Blounte.
9 Nov. 1447	...	Thomas Ferrers, Esq. (of Tamworth, *j.u.*, *d.* 1459).
20 Dec. 1449	...	Humphrey Swynnerton (of Swynnerton, M.P., Escheator, *c.* 1420–*c.* 1463).

[1] William Hexstall, of Ashley, *j.u.*, subsheriff.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
3 Dec. 1450 ...	John Stanley, Esq. (knighted 1457–9, of Elford and Pipe, King's Squire, M.P., *b.* 1423–4, *d.* 1476).
8 Nov. 1451 ...	Thomas Asteley (of Patshull).
„ 1452 ...	Robert Aston, Esq. (of Heywood).
5 Nov. 1453 ...	Richard Bagot, Esq. (of Blithfield, *d.* 1475–7).
4 Nov. 1454 ...	John Coton of Redware, Esq.
„ 1455 ...	John Delves, Esq. (of Doddington and Apedale, M.P., knighted before and slain at Tewkesbury, 1471).
17 Nov. 1456 ...	John Cotes, Esq.
7 Nov. 1457 ...	William Mitton, Esq. (of Weston, Lancastrian).
„ 1458 ...	Hugh Egerton, Esq. (of Wrinehill and Cheddleton, J.P., *d.* 1505).
„ 1459 ...	John Stanley, Knight.
„ 1460 ...	Walter Wrottesley, Esq. (of Wrottesley, J.P., knighted *c.* 1462, adhered to Warwick, *d.* 1473).
„ 1461 ...	John Harecourt, Esq.
5 Nov. 1463 ...	Humphry Peshale, Esq. (of Hopton and Tean).
„ 1464 ...	John Stanley, Knight.
„ 1465 ...	Thomas Basset, Esq.
„ 1466 ...	John Harecourt, Esq. (of Ranton).
„ 1467 ...	John Acton, Esq.
„ 1468 ...	John Stanley, Knight.
„ 1469 ...	Randle Brereton, Knight.
8 Nov. 1470 ...	John Delves, Esq. (did not account, because slain).
11 Ap. 1471 ...	Henry Beaumont, Esq. (knighted 3 May, 1471).
9 Nov. 1471 ...	Walter Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1482).
„ 1472 ...	William Basset (of Blore and Cheadle, J.P.).
5 Nov. 1473 ...	George Stanley.
7 Nov. 1474 ...	John Stanley, Knight.
5 Nov. 1475 ...	John Aston (of Heywood, *d.* 1483).
„ 1476 ...	Hugh Eggerton, Esq.
„ 1477 ...	Richard Bagot (of Blithfield, J.P., slain at Bosworth, 1485).
„ 1478 ...	Nicholas Mountgomery (of Cubley and Marston-Montgomery, co. Derby).
„ 1479 ...	John Aston.
„ 1480 ...	William Basset, Esq.
„ 1481 ...	Humphrey Stanley (afterwards knighted, of Pipe).
„ 1482 ...	Nicholas Mountgomery, Esq.
6 Nov. 1483 ...	Thomas Wortley, Knight.
5 Nov. 1484 ...	Marmaduke Constable, Knight (of Flamborough, Yorks, steward of Tutbury, 1483, commanded left wing at Flodden, 1455–1518).

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
12 Sept. 1485	... Humphrey Stanley, Knight[1] (accounts from 22 Aug., 1485, Bosworth Day).
5 Nov. 1486	... Henry Willoughby, Esq.
4 Nov. 1487	... William Harper, Esq. (of Rushall, J.P.).
„ 1488	... Hugh Persall, Kt. (acct. rend. by widow, of Horseley).
5 Nov. 1489	... Thomas Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow, M.P., knighted 1487–9, *d.* 1503).
„ 1490	... Ralph Oker (of Okeover, *d.* 1495).
„ 1491	... Roger Draycot, Esq. (of Paynsley in Draycot).
26 Nov. 1492	... Richard Wrottesley, Esq.
17 Nov. 1493	... Humphrey Stanley, Knight.
5 Nov. 1494	... Robt. Harecourt, Kt. (of Bosworth, Squire to Hen. VII.).
„ 1495	... John Mitton the elder, Esq. (of Weston under-Lizeard).
„ 1496	... John Draycot, Esq. (afterwards Knight, of Paynsley).
„ 1497	... Thomas Greysseley, Knight.
„ 1498	... William Harpur, Esq.
11 Nov. 1499	... John Ferrers, Knight (of Tamworth, M.P., J.P., *d.* 1515).
15 Nov. 1500	... John Aston, Esq. (of Tixall, knight, *d.* 1523).
5 Nov. 1501	... John Swynerton (did not account).
31 Jan. 1502	... Richard Wrottesley, Esq.
8 Nov. 1502	... William Harper, Esq. (of Rushall).
18 Nov. 1503	... John Draycote, Knight.
5 Nov. 1504	... William Smythe, Esq. (of Elford and Haselour, *j.u.*).
27 Nov. 1506	... Lewis Bagot, Knight (of Blithfield).
3 Dec. 1507	... John Mitton, Esq. (of Weston-under-Lizeard).
15 Dec. 1508	... John Aston, Knight.
14 Nov. 1509	... John Gyfford, Esq. (knighted by 1513, lord of Chillington, of the King's Household, M.P., J.P., *b.* 1466, *d.* 1556).
9 Nov. 1510	... Thomas Nevill, Esq.
8 Nov. 1511	... John Egerton, Esq. (of Wrimehill, M.P., J.P.).
7 Nov. 1512	... John Mitton, Esq.
9 Nov. 1513	... John Aston, Knight.
7 Nov. 1514	... William Chetwyn, Esq. (of Ingestre).
5 Nov. 1515	... Thomas Nevell, Esq.
10 Nov. 1516	... Richard Wrottesley (of Wrottesley).
9 Nov. 1517	... John Gyfford, Knight.
8 Nov. 1518	... Ralph Egerton, Knight (of Wrimehill).
„ 1519	... Edward Grey, Knight.
6 Nov. 1520	... Lewis Bagot, Knight.
3 Feb. 1522	... John Gyfford, Knight.
12 Nov. 1522	... William Smyth, Knight (of Elford, *d.* 1526).

[1] Humphrey Stanley, appointed 5 Nov., 1485; though not called Knight, is probably the same person.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
13 Nov. 1523 ...	Edward Littilton, Esq. (of Pillatonhall, M.P., J.P.).
10 Nov. 1524 ...	Edward Grey, Knight.
27 Jan. 1526 ...	John Gyfford, Knight.
7 Nov. 1526 ...	John Blunt, Esq. (? of Blounts Hall).
16 Nov. 1527 ...	John Vernon, Esq.
7 Nov. 1528 ...	Edward Aston, Esq. (Knight, of Tixall, J.P., *d.* 1565).
9 Nov. 1529 ...	Thomas Gifford, Esq.
11 Nov. 1530 ...	John Gyfford, Knight.
9 Nov. 1531 ...	Richard Asteley, Esq.
Mich. 1531	Walter Wrottesley, Esq. (makes both proffers).
20 Nov. 1532 ...	John Vernon, Esq.
17 Nov. 1533 ...	Philip Draycot, Knight (of Paynsley, M.P., J.P., King's Servant).
14 Nov. 1534 ...	Edward Aston, Knight.
22 Nov. 1535 ...	William Chetwyn, Esq. (of Ingestre, *d.* 1546).
27 Nov. 1536 ...	John Dudley, Kt. (*postea* Duke of Northumberland).
14 Nov. 1537 ...	George Gresley, Knight.
15 Nov. 1538 ...	John Vernon, Esq.
17 Nov. 1539 ...	Edward Lyttleton, Esq.
,, 1540 ...	Edward Aston, Knight.
27 Nov. 1541 ...	John Gyfford, Knight.
22 Nov. 1542 ...	William Basset, Knight (of Blore).
23 Nov. 1543 ...	Thomas FitzHerbert, Esq. (M.P. 1545–7).
16 Nov. 1544 ...	George Gresley, Knight.
22 Nov. 1545 ...	John Harecourt, Knight (of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt, M.P.).
23 Nov. 1546 ...	James Leveson, Esq. (of Wolverhampton).
Easter 1547 ...	Walter Wrottesley, Esq.
27 Nov. 1547 ...	Francis Meverell, Esq. (of Throwley).
3 Dec. 1548 ...	John Fleetwood, Esq. (of Calwich Priory).
12 Nov. 1549 ...	William Snede, Knight (of Bradwell, *d.* 1571).
11 Nov. 1550 ...	Edward Litleton, Esq.
,, 1551 ...	William Basset, Knight.
10 Nov. 1552 ...	George Blount, Knight.
8 Nov. 1553 ...	Thomas Gifford, Knight (Lord of Chillington, M.P., J.P., a Catholic, 1556–1560).
14 Nov. 1554 ...	Thomas FitzHerbert, Knight.
,, 1555 ...	Philip Draycot, Knight.
13 Nov. 1556 ...	Edward Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1565).
16 Nov. 1557 ...	John Harecourt, Knight.
23 Nov. 1558 ...	William Sneyde, Knight (of Keele and Bradwell).
9 Nov. 1559 ...	Humphrey Welles, Esq. (of Hoarcross, M.P., J.P.).
12 Nov. 1560 ...	Ralph Bagnoll, Knight (*D.N.B.*)
8 Nov. 1561 ...	John Leveson, Esq. (of Wolverhampton).

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
19 Nov. 1562	...	William Greisley, Knight (of Drakelow).
8 Nov. 1563	...	Edward Littelton, Knight (of Pillaton, M.P., *d.* 1574).
9 Nov. 1564	...	Ralph Oker, Esq. (of Okeover, *d.* 1571).
16 Nov. 1565	...	John Wrottesley, Esq. (of Wrottesley).
18 Nov. 1566	...	Simon Harecourt, Esq. (of Ellenhall and Stanton, M.P.).
,, 1567	...	John Scrymshere, Esq. (of Norbury).
,, 1568	...	John Fleetwood, Esq. (of Calwich Priory).
12 Nov. 1569	...	Richard Bagott, Esq. (of Blithfield).
13 Nov. 1570	...	Walter Aston, Knight (of Tixall, M.P. 1553, *d.* 1583).
14 Nov. 1571	...	Thomas Trentham, Esq. (of Rocester Abbey, Protestant).
13 Nov. 1572	...	George Blunte, Knight.
10 Nov. 1573	...	John Gyfforde, Esq. (of Chillington, *d.* 1613, Catholic).
15 Nov. 1574	...	Thomas Horwood, Esq. (of Compton, M.P. 1572–83).
,, 1575	...	Ralph Adderley (of Coton-under-Needwood, *d.* 1595).
13 Nov. 1576	...	Ralph Snede, Esq. (of Keele and Bradwell).
27 Nov. 1577	...	Richard Bagott, Esq.
17 Nov. 1578	...	John Chetwyn, Esq. (of Ingestre, *d.* 1592).
23 Nov. 1579	...	Thomas Trentham, Esq.
21 Nov. 1580	...	Walter Aston, Knight.
27 Nov. 1581	...	Edward Litleton, Esq.
5 Dec. 1582	...	John Grey, Esq. (M.P.).
25 Nov. 1583	...	Thomas Greisley, Esq.
19 Nov. 1584	...	Edward Leigh, Esq. (of Rushall, M.P. 23 Nov. 1584).
22 Nov. 1585	...	Philip Okeover, Esq. (of Okeover).
14 Nov. 1586	...	Walter Leveson, Esq. (ktd. 1587, M.P. 1597–8, *d.* 1602).
4 Dec. 1587	...	William Basset, Esq. (of Cheadle, M.P. 1586–7).
25 Nov. 1588	...	John Bowes, Knight (of Efford, *d.* 1608).
24 Nov. 1589	...	Robert Stamforde, Esquire (of Perry Hall, knighted 1603, M.P., *d.* 1606).
,, 1590	...	Edward Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1597).
25 Nov. 1591	...	Thomas Leveson, Esq. (of Wolverhampton, *d.* 1594).
16 Nov. 1592	...	Francis Trentham, Esq. (of Rocester, M.P. 1610–11).
26 Nov. 1593	...	Edward Littleton, Knight (of Pillaton, M.P. 1604–10).
21 Nov. 1594	...	Henry Griffith, Esq. (of Wichnor, J.P., *b.* 1566, *d.* 1604).
27 Nov. 1595	...	Ralph Snede, Esq. (of Keele).
22 Nov. 1596	...	Thomas Whorwood, Esq. (of Compton).
25 Nov. 1597	...	William Crompton, Esq. (of Stone Abbey).
28 Nov. 1598	...	Walter Wrottesley, Esq. (of Wrottesley).
2 Dec. 1599	...	Walter Bagott, Esq. (of Blithfield, M.P., *d.* 1622).
24 Nov. 1600	...	William Chetwyn, Esq. (of Ingestre, afterwards Knight, *d.* 1612).
2 Dec. 1601	...	William Skevington, Esq. (of Fisherwick).
7 Dec. 1602	...	Edward Leigh, Esq. (and Knight, of Rushall).

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
1 Dec. 1603	Walter Baghott, Esq.
5 Nov. 1604	William Whorwood, Knight (of Sandwell and West Bromwich).
2 Feb. 1606	Gilbert Wakering, Knight (of Great Bloxwich).
17 Nov. 1606	Edward Brabazon, Knight.
9 Nov. 1607	Walt. Chetwyn, Kt. (of Ingestre, M.P. 1604–14, *d.* 1637).
12 Nov. 1608	Thomas Persall, Esq. (Peshall of Horsley).[1]
„	James Skrimshire, Esq. (accounts for whole year) (of Norbury).
1609	Walter Heveningham, Esq. (of Aston-by-Stone, afterwards knighted).
6 Nov. 1610	Simon Weston, Knight (of St. John's, M.P. 1624–6).
1611	Francis Trentham, Esq. (of Rocester).
1612	Robert Meverell, Esq. (of Throwley).
1613	Edward Litleton, Knight.
1614	Richard Fletewood, Bart. (of Calwich, *d.* 1649).
6 Nov. 1615	John Peshall, Knight and Bart. (of Horsley).
11 Nov. 1616	John Offeley, Knight (of Madeley, M.P. 1625–6, *d.* 1646).
6 Nov. 1617	Hugh Wrottesley, Knight (of Wrottesley).
9 Nov. 1618	Thomas Skrimshire, Esq. (of Johnson, by Eccleshall).
1619	Henry Leighe, Esq. (of Rushall).
6 Nov. 1620	Edward Windsor, Esq., knighted 21 Aug., 1621.
1621	Ralph Sneade, Esq. (of Keele, M.P. 1640–3, Cav., *d.* 1643).
7 Nov. 1622	William Comberford, Esq. (of Comberford).
1623	William Skeffington, Esq. (of Fisherwick).
1624	Edward Stanford, Esq. (of Perry Hall, *d.* 1631).
1625	Thomas Parkes, Esq. (of Willingsworth, *d.* 1660).[2]
1626	Harvey Bagot, Bart. (of Blithfield, M.P. 1641–3, Cav.).
4 Nov. 1627	Wm. Bowyer, Kt. (of Knypersley, M.P. 1621–41, *d.* 1641).
1628	John Bowes, Esq. (of Elford).
1629	John Cootes, Esq. (of Callowhill).
7 Nov. 1630	William Wollaston, Esq.[3]
1631	Thomas Broughton, Esq. (of Broughton, *d.* 1648).
1632	Thomas Whorwood, Knight (of Sandwell Priory, *d.* 1634).
10 Nov. 1633	Henry Griffithe, Baronet (of Wichnor, *d.* 1660).
5 Nov. 1634	Humphrey Worley, Esq. (of Hampstead).
1635	Richard Pyott, Esq. (of Strethey).
3 Oct. 1636	Edward Littleton, Bart. (of Pillaton, M.P. 1640–3, Cav.).
30 Sept. 1637	John Skevington, Bart. (of Fisherwick, M.P. 1626).

[1] Probably died that year, and was succeeded by his son John, created a Baronet in 1614.

[2] See *S.C.*, V, i, 231, when his father Richard is stated to have died only in 1626.

[3] See *S.C.*, V, i, 321.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
4 Nov. 1638	...	John Skrimshire, Esq. (of Norbury).
1639	...	John Bellott, Esq. (of Moreton).
1640	...	John Agarde, Esq.
1641	...	Edward Moseley, Baronet (of Rolleston).
		? ? ?
30 Dec. 1643	...	Simon Ridgeley, Esq. (Col. Rugeley, of Shenstone and Callingwood, *d.* 1665).[1]
1644		? ? ? Col Thomas Leveson
1645	...	Edward Manwaringe, Esq. (of Whitmore, *d.* 1647).
1 Dec. 1646	...	Thomas Kinnersley, of Locksley, Esq.[2]
17 Nov. 1647	...	Walter Chetwyn, Esq. (of Ingestre, *d.* 1669).
26 Nov. 1648	...	Edward Seabright, Esq. (of Prestwood).
7 Nov. 1649	...	John Offley, Esq. (of Madeley, *d.* 1656).
„ 1650	...	William Jolley, Esq. (of Leek).
4 Nov. 1651	...	Gerrard Skrimeshire (of Aqualate).
12 Nov. 1652	...	Robt. Ducy of Little Aston (near Shenstone, *d.* 1654).[3]
10 Nov. 1653	...	Brome Whorwood of Sandhall (Sandwell).[4]
1654	...	Thos. Wilbraham (? 2nd Bart. of Woodhey, co. Cestr., *d.* 1660).
1655	...	Thos. Chetwind (of Church Eaton, *d.* 1674).
1656	...	Rowland Cotton (of Crakemarsh).
1657	...	Jonathan Cope (of Ranton Abbey).
1658	...	Humble Ward (see *G.E.C.*, *Complete Peerage*, Lord Ward)
1659	...	Humble Ward and John Shelton (of West Bromwich).
6 Nov. 1660	...	Brian Broughton, Knight (of Broughton, cr. Bart. 1661).
1661	...	John Bellott (of Moreton).
1662	...	John Bowyer, Knight and Bart. (M.P. 1646–60, 1679–81).
1663	...	Wm. Snead (of Keele, M.P. 1660).
1664	...	John Wirley, Knight (of Hampstead).
12 Nov. 1665	...	Fras. (Leveson or) Fowler.
7 Nov. 1666	...	Walter Wrottesley, Bart.
6 Nov. 1667	...	John Whitehale (of Park Hall, near Leigh, *d.* 1684).
„ 1668	...	Walter Chetwyn (of Ingestre, the Antiquary).
25 Nov. 1668	...	Edwin Skrimshere (of Aqualate).
11 Nov. 1669	...	Rowland Cotton (of Crakemarsh).

[1] He was a Colonel in the Parliamentary Army.

[2] Called "of Badger," Salop, in 1663.

[3] Ancestor of Earl Ducie.

[4] Also of Holton, co. Oxon. He sat as M.P. for Oxford City, 1661–81, and became a violent Whig; *d.* 1684.

Date of Appointment.	*Sheriffs.*
4 Nov. 1670	Rich. Cresswell (of Barnhurst).
9 Nov. 1671	Henry Gough (of Bushbury).
11 Nov. 1672	Wm. Lawton (of Lawton, co. Cestr.).
12 Nov. 1673	Thos. Jolley (of Leek).
5 Nov. 1674	John Eynge.
1674	John Wilson (of Stafford).
15 Nov. 1675	Thos. Goreing (of Kingston).
1675	Thos. Allen (of Fulford).
9 Nov. 1676	Walter Skrimshaw (of Orslow).
18 Nov. 1676	Henry Stone (of Walsall).
6 Jan. 1677	Simon Unwin (of Clough Hall).
15 Nov. 1677	Wm. Batch.
26 Nov. 1677	Henry Grey (of Enville, *d.* 1686).
3 Dec. 1677	Wm. Cotton (of Crakemarsh).
21 Dec. 1677	John Bowyer, Bt. (of Knypersley, M.P. in Excln. Parlt.).
16 Jan. 1678	John Stone of Walsall.
21 Jan. 1678	Rich. Amphlett of Clent.
14 Nov. 1678	Thos. Bellott, Bart. (of Moreton, M.P. 1679–81).
23 Nov. 1678	Edw. Mainwaring (of Whitmore, M.P. 1685–7).
13 Nov. 1679	John Offley (of Madeley).
1680	Edw. Littleton (M.P. 1685–7, *d.* 1709).
17 Nov. 1681	Chas. Skrymsher—knighted 26 Ap. 1682 (of Norbury, *d.* 1709).
13 Nov. 1682	Wm. Ing (of Thorpe Constantine).
23 Nov. 1682	—— Wrotchley, Knight (*sic*? Wrottesley).
9 Dec. 1682	Thos. Ruddiard (of Rudyard).
14 Dec. 1682	Matt. Floyer of Ince (Hintes).
12 Nov. 1683	Wm. Ing (of Thorpe Constantine).
20 Nov. 1684	Walter Chetwynd (of Ingestre, the Antiquary, *d.* 1693).
13 Dec. 1685	Jonathan Cope (of Ranton Abbey, M.P. 1690–4, *d.* 1694).
25 Nov. 1686	Walter Wrottesly, Bart.
5 Dec. 1687	Philip Draycott of Paynsly (Catholic).
8 Nov. 1688	Thos. Fowke.
12 Nov. 1688	Francis Lawley, Knight.
17 Nov. 1688	Wm. Cotton of Crakemarsh.
18 Mar. 1689	Fras. Eld (did not act).
4 Ap. 1689	Wm. Cotton (again).
18 Nov. 1689	Wm. Ward.
27 Nov. 1690	John Newton.
14 Dec. 1691	Wm. Jolliffe.
21 Dec. 1691	Hy. Vernon of Hilton.
31 Dec. 1691	John Chetwood (of Oakley).
23 Jan. 1692	Grosvenor Dyson.
17 Nov. 1692	Wm. Jolliffe.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
16 Nov. 1693	...	John Chetwood (of Oakley).
27 Nov. 1693	...	Rich. Bagnall.
6 Dec. 1694	...	Wm. Trafford (of Swythamley).
19 Dec. 1694	...	John Taylor.
5 Dec. 1695	...	John Younger.
16 Dec. 1695	...	John Chetwynd of Ingestry.
3 Dec. 1696	...	Wm. Murrall (of Bagnall).
16 Dec. 1697	...	John Bowyer (of Knypersley).
17 Jan. 1698	...	John Chetwood.
22 Dec. 1698	...	Walter Landor.
20 Nov. 1699	...	Thos. Nabs.
30 Nov. 1699	...	Oswald Moseley (of Rolleston).
28 Nov. 1700	...	Benj. Jolliffe.
1 Jan. 1702	...	Thos. Nabbs or Nobbs.
3 Dec. 1702	...	John Amfleet.
14 Dec. 1702	...	Humph. Hodges.
17 Dec. 1702	...	John Babington.
2 Dec. 1703	...	Rowland Okeover (of Okeover, *d.* 1729).
20 Dec. 1703	...	Thos. Okeover (his eldest son, *b.* 1679).
21 Dec. 1704	...	Matt. Ducie Morton.
3 Dec. 1705	...	Humph. Hodges.
24 Dec. 1705	...	Leigh Brooke.
7 Jan. 1706	...	Thos. Crompton.
14 Nov. 1706	...	Wm. Trafford.
18 Dec. 1707	...	Jas. Wood.
29 Nov. 1708	...	Edw. Mainwaring (of Whitmore).
6 Dec. 1708	...	John Jervis.
3 Dec. 1709	...	Edm. Arblaster.
24 Nov. 1710	...	Walter Moseley.
10 Jan. 1712	...	Legh Brooke.
11 Dec. 1712	...	Edw. Littleton, Bart.
13 Dec. 1713	...	Zachary Babington of Packington.
17 Jan. 1714	...	Harry Gray.
6 Dec. 1714	...	Edw. Mainwaring.
1714	...	Oswold Mosley (of Rolleston).
5 Dec. 1715	...	Weston Baylie of Harborne.
20 Jan. 1716	...	Thos. Birch of Harborne.
12 Nov. 1716	...	John Cradock of Audley.
17 Dec. 1716	...	John Turton of Alrewas.
21 Dec. 1717	...	Joseph Amflet.
2 Feb. 1718	...	Thomas Whitby.
21 Dec. 1718	...	Charles Chadwick.
3 Dec. 1719	...	Edward Brown of Caverswall.
3 Jan. 1721	...	Robert Bosvile of Biana.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
14 Jan. 1721	...	Ralph Sneyd of Keele.
14 Dec. 1721	...	Humphrey Hodgetts.
11 Dec. 1722	...	Henry Goreing.
7 Jan. 1724	...	Zachariah Babington.
22 Dec. 1724	...	Richard Scott.
13 Jan. 1726	...	Richard Townsend.
29 Nov. 1726	...	Edward Bird.
8 Dec. 1726	...	William Robins and Fowke Hussey.
10 Jan. 1728	...	Edward Wilson of Cank.
18 Dec. 1728	...	Samuel Newton.
„ 1729	...	John Arden.
23 Dec. 1730	...	William Robins.
9 Dec. 1731	...	Ralph Williamson.
21 Dec. 1732	...	John Dolphin of Shenstone.
11 Jan. 1733	...	Warren Faulkener of Rugely.
20 Dec. 1733	...	John Hodgetts of Shot-end.
10 Jan. 1734	...	Craven Kinnersley of Locksly.
19 Dec. 1734	...	John Hodgetts.
18 Dec. 1735	...	Charles Baldwin of Aqualate.
22 Jan. 1736	...	Samuel Clark.
5 Feb. 1736	...	Ralph Adderley.
19 Jan. 1737	...	Thomas Joliffe of Leek.
12 Jan. 1738	...	Richard Fowler of Tunstal.
11 Jan. 1739	...	Richard Davenport of Ellaston.
27 Dec. 1739	...	Theodore William Inge.
24 Dec. 1740	...	John Dolphin.
2 Feb. 1742	...	William Murrhall of Bagnall.
16 Dec. 1742	...	Charles Chadwick.
19 Jan. 1743	...	Sir Robert Lawley, Bart.
5 Jan. 1744	...	Thomas Webb of Blakenall (*d.* 1778).
10 Jan. 1745	...	Samuel Hellier of Woodhouse.
21 Feb. 1745	...	Charles Bosvile of Biana.
15 Jan. 1747	...	George Hunt of Rocester.
14 Jan. 1748	...	John Jervis the younger of Darlaston.
11 Jan. 1749	...	John Wyrley.
21 Feb. 1750	...	Edward Busby of Barton-under-Needwood (*b.* 1703, *d.* 1751).
6 Dec. 1750	...	Henry Vernon of Hilton.
14 Jan. 1752	...	Thomas Bradney of Penne.
7 Feb. 1753	...	Richard Drakeford of Castle Church.
31 Jan. 1754	...	Thomas Mills of Leek.
29 Jan. 1755	...	John Burridge Leigh of Rushall.
27 Jan. 1756	...	John Touchet Chetwoode of Oakley.
4 Feb. 1757	...	Walter Acton Moseley.

Date of Appointment.		*Sheriffs.*
27 Jan. 1758	...	Richard Whitworth of Batchacre.
2 Feb. 1759	...	Sir Nigel Gresley of Meir, Bart.
1 Feb. 1760	...	John Dolphin of Shenston.
28 Jan. 1761	...	Jeremiah Smith of Fenton.
15 Feb. 1762	...	Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton, Bart.
4 Feb. 1763	...	John Sneyd of Bishton.
10 Feb. 1764	...	William Armet of Heaton.
1 Feb. 1765	...	John Hodgetts of Prestwood.
17 Feb. 1766	...	William Inge of Thorpe Constantine.
13 Feb. 1767	...	Edward Mainwaring of Whitmore.
15 Jan. 1768	...	Francis Eld of Seighford.
27 Jan. 1769	...	Clement Kynnersley of Loxley Hall.
9 Feb. 1770	...	John Marsh of Womborne.
6 Feb. 1771	...	Thomas Hoo of Barr.
17 Feb. 1772	...	Sir Thomas Broughton, Bart., of Broughton.
8 Feb. 1773	...	Thomas Whitby of Hales Hall, Cheadle.
7 Feb. 1774	...	Nathaniel Barrett of Oaken Hall.
6 Feb. 1775	...	John Williamson of Stafford.
5 Feb. 1776	...	William Tennant of Shenston.
31 Jan. 1777	...	John Turton of Sugnall.
28 Jan. 1778	...	John Swinfen of Swinfen.
1 Feb. 1779	...	Edward Walhouse Okeover of Okeover.
2 Feb. 1780	...	Ralph Floyer of Hints.
5 Feb. 1781	...	Philip Keay of Abbots Bromley.
16 March, 1781	...	John Jervis of Darlaston.
1 Feb. 1782	...	Charles Tollet of Betley.
10 Feb. 1783	...	Richard Gildard of Norton.
9 Feb. 1784	...	John Edensor Heathcote of Longton.
7 Feb. 1785	...	Thomas Stevenson of Stafford.
13 Feb. 1786	...	Thomas Parker of Park Hall.
12 Feb. 1787	...	Thomas Whieldon of Fenton (the famous potter).
8 Feb. 1788	...	Thomas Fletcher of Newcastle.
29 Ap. 1789	...	Thomas Leversage Fowler of Pendeford.
29 Jan. 1790	...	John Sparrow of Bishton.
4 Feb. 1791	...	Moreton Walhouse of Hatherton.
3 Feb. 1792	...	Simon Debanke of Leek.
6 Feb. 1793	...	George Molineux of Wolverhampton.
5 Feb. 1794	...	Matthew Boulton of Soho (engineer 1728–1809, *D.N.B.*).
11 Feb. 1795	...	Thomas Swinnerton of Butterton.
5 Feb. 1796	...	Henry Vernon of Hilton.
1 Feb. 1797	...	John Gough of Perry Barr.
8 Feb. 1797	...	Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., of Canwell.
7 Feb. 1798	...	Richard Dyott of Freford.
1 Feb. 1799	...	John Scott of Great Barr.

List of Sheriffs for the County since the Year 1800.[1]

Year.	*Name and Address.*
1800.	Haughton Farmer Okeover, Esq., of Okeover.
1801.	Thomas Bainbridge, Esq., of Woodseat.
1802.	Robert Parker, Esq., of Park Hall, Lane End.
1803.	George Birch, Esq., of Hampstead.
1804.	Richard Jesson, Esq., of West Bromwich.
1805.	John Heyliger Burt, Esq., of Crofton.
1806.	William Philips Inge, Esq., of Thorpe Constantine.
1807.	John Lane, Esq., of King's Bromley.
1808.	William Carey, Esq., of Cannock.
1809.	Theophilus Levett, Esq., of Wichnor.
1810.	Henry Webb, Esq., of Forebridge.
1811.	James Beech, Esq., of the Shaw.
1812.	Thomas Mottershaw, Esq., of Southwich.
1813.	Walter Sneyd, Esq., of Keele.
1814.	Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart., of Rolleston.
1815.	Henry Crockett, Esq., of Littleover.
1816.	John Smith, Esq., of Great Fenton.
1817.	Thomas Kirkpatrick Hall, Esq., of Holly Bush.
1818.	Edward Trafford Nicholls, Esq., of Swythamley Park.
1819.	Jesse Watts Russell, Esq., of Ilam.
1820.	Moreton Walhouse, Esq., of Hatherton.
1821.	Francis Eld, Esq., of Seighford.
1822.	Phineas Hussey, Esq., of Wyvlly Grove.
1823.	James Hordern, Esq., of Wolverhampton.
1824.	Edward Sneyd, Esq., of Byrkley Lodge.
1825.	Sir George Pigott, Bart., Patshull.
1826.	John Burton Phillips, Esq., Heath House, Checkley.
1827.	Hugo Charles Meynell, Esq., of Hoar Cross.
1828.	John Atkinson, Esq., of Maple Hayes.
1829.	John Bateman, Esq., Knypersley Hall.
1830.	Thomas Twemlow, Esq., Peatswood.
1831.	Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq., Swynnerton.
1832.	Sir T. F. F. Boughey, Bart., Aqualate.
1833.	Thomas Kynnersley, Esq., Clough Hall.
1834.	Hugh Henshall Williamson, Esq., Greenway Bank.
1835.	Edward Monckton, Esq., Somerford, Brewood.
1836.	Thomas Hawe Parker, Esq., Park Hall, Lane End.
1837.	George Thomas Whitgreave, Esq., Mosley Court, Wolverhampton.
1838.	John Stevenson Salt, Esq., Standon.

[1] I am indebted for the following to the Clerk to the County Council, Mr. Eustace Joy.

Year.	*Name and Address.*
1839.	William Moore, Esq., Stowe.
1840.	Henry John Pye, Esq., Clifton Hall, Tamworth.
1841.	Thomas Cartwright, Esq., Hill Hall, Eccleshall.
1842.	John Edwards Piercey, Esq., Warley Hall, Birmingham.
1843.	John Shaw Manley, Esq., Manley Hall, Lichfield.
1844.	Ralph Sneyd, Esq., Keele.
1845.	Charles Smith Forster, Esq., Walsall.
1846.	John Levett, Esq., Wichnor.
1847.	Sir Edward Dolman Scott, Bart., Great Barr.
1848.	The Honourable Frederick Gough, Birmingham.
1849.	Charles Arkwright, Esq., Dunstall Lodge, Burton-on-Trent (*b.* 1786, *d.* 1850).
1850.	Josiah Spode, Esq., Armitage Park.
1851.	John Barker, Esq., Wolverhampton.
1852.	John Ashford Wise, Esq., Clayton Hall.
1853.	Edward Buller, Esq., Dilhorne.
1854.	John Davenport, Esq., Westwood Hall, Leek.
1855.	Samuel Pole Shaw, Esq., Maple Hayes, Lichfield.
1856.	Richard Dyott, Esq., Freeford.
1857.	E. S. Parker-Jervis, Esq., Aston by Stone.
1858.	Philip Williams, Esq., Tipton.
1859.	William Davenport, Esq., Maer.
1860.	Richard Howard Haywood, Esq., Brownhills.
1861.	John William Philips, Esq., Heybridge, Tean.
1862.	Henry Killick, Esq., Walton Hall.
1863.	Thomas Bagnall, Esq., West Bromwich.
1864.	Thomas Thornycroft, Esq., Tettenhall Wood.
1865.	Smith Child, Esq., Stallington.
1866.	Ralph Thomas Adderley, Esq., Barlaston.
1867.	Henry Charles Vernon, Esq., Hilton Park.
1868.	James Timmins Chance, Esq., Handsworth.
1869.	Colin Minton Campbell, Esq., Woodseat.
1870.	John Hartley, Esq., Wolverhampton.
1871.	Charles Walter Lyon, Esq., Silverhill, Burton-on-Trent (*b.* 1803, *d.* 1874).
1872.	Henry Ward, Esq., Oaklands.
1873.	William Mander Sparrow, Esq., Penn.
1874.	Sir Tonman Mosley, Bart., Rolleston Hall.
1875.	John Nock Bagnall, Esq., Shenstone Moss.
1876.	Richard Holt Briscoe, Esq., Somerford Hall.
1877.	Henry John Wentworth Hodgetts Foley, Esq., Prestwood.
1878.	Sir John Hardy, Bart., Dunstall Hall.
1879.	Augustus East Manley, Esq., Manley Hall.
1880.	Walter Williams, Esq., Sugnall Hall.
1881.	The Hon. Augustus Cholmondeley Gough Calthorpe, Perry Hall.

Year.	*Name and Address.*
1882.	John Robinson, Esq., Westwood Hall, Leek.
1883.	Alfred Charles Duncombe, Esq., Calwich Abbey.
1884.	Abraham Briggs Foster, Esq., Canwell.
1885.	Robert Heath, Esq., Biddulph Grange.
1886.	James Chadwick, Esq., Hints.
1887.	George Fox, Esq., Elmhurst.
1888.	Frederick Charles Perry, Esq., Dunston, Penkridge.
1889.	Albert Octavius Worthington, Esq., Maple Hayes, Lichfield.
1890.	Samuel Lipscomb Seckham, Esq., Beacon House, Lichfield.
1891.	William Frederick Inge, Esq., Thorpe Constantine.
1892.	Ralph Sneyd, Esq., Keele.
1893.	Sir Reginald Hardy, Bart., Dunstall.
1894.	Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart., Rolleston.
1895.	Francis Monckton, Esq., Stretton-by-Penkridge.
1896.	Henry Arthur Wiggin, Esq., Harborne Park.
1897.	William Bealey Harrison, Esq., Aldershaw, Lichfield.
1898.	Sir Thomas Fletcher Boughey, Bart., Aqualate.
1899.	Augustus Leveson Vernon, Esq., Hilton Park, Wolverhampton.
1900.	Sir Charles Forster, Bart., Lysways Hall, Rugeley.
1901.	Richard Powell Cooper, Esq., Shenstone Court.
1902.	Richard Pirie Copeland, Esq., Kibblestone Hall.
1903.	Charles Tertius Mander, Esq., The Mount, Wolverhampton.
1904.	Robert Halstead Hargreaves, Esq., Knightley Grange, Eccleshall.
1905.	Robert Heath, Esq., Biddulph Grange.
1906.	Thomas William Twyford, Esq., Whitmore Hall.
1907.	Col. Michael Alexander Wilsone Swinfen Broun, Swinfen.
1908.	Loftus Balfour Moreton, Esq., Moseley Court.
1909.	Major Sir Thomas Anderdon Salt, Bart., Chatcull.
1910.	The Hon. Frederick George Lindley Meynell, Hoar Cross.
1911.	William Robert Parker Jervis, Meaford.

ESCHEATORS OF STAFFORDSHIRE. (1247–1619.)

The duties of escheators were to take possession of and administer the lands that escheated to the Crown, and of those in which the Crown had a temporary interest as guardian of minors or during vacancies in Crown presentations. In the earliest days these duties were performed by the sheriff, or by specially appointed persons or commissions. County escheators were, however, in 1232, appointed to do this work; and they in their turn were superseded by two escheators for the whole of England, "on this side" and "beyond" Trent, 1234. Soon however, "sub-" or "county" escheators came to be appointed under these chief King's escheators. Such a "co-escheator for Staffordshire" occurs in 1247, though his name is not given. In the following year we get the first record of a Staffordshire escheator by name, Sir Robert de Grendon, lord of Shenstone, one of the most important personages in the county at the time. Throughout Henry III.'s reign knights of similar good standing are found as county escheators. The following reign, that of Edward I., saw all matters conducted far more from the central government; both sheriffs and sub-escheators were men of less note—royal servants. Often the sheriff himself acted as escheator for the county; or there were several co-escheators at the same time. Then, towards the close of Edwards II.'s reign, the two great escheatorships were broken up, and with the accession of Edward III. we begin a regular series of escheators for Staffordshire, Salop, and the Marches of Wales. They were men of the office rather than county knights, though all, probably, were personages of some previous standing in the counties. It was not a post which led automatically to lands and fortune. When the House of Lancaster came to power, the escheatorship was finally divided into single counties, and, curiously enough, the class from which the escheators were drawn seems to have improved. Parliament, not the Crown, had got power. Parliament meant the county gentry. The escheator had to tax the local gentry, and one of themselves could be best trusted to do it reasonably and lightly. The best

gentry, and even some knightly families, constituted the stock from which the escheator now came. They often became sheriffs or knights of the shire at some later date, after serving, as it were, their apprenticeship as escheators. During the economical rule of Henry VII. the escheator was evidently a mere clerk, and at the same time a specialist, for he continued to serve year after year. Henry VIII. reverted to the more popular and expensive habit of having annual appointments of local gentry who should assess their fellows sympathetically.

Escheators for Staffs.

(From the *Staff. Cols.*)

Date of Appointment.	*Escheators.*
18 July, 1247 ...	Co-escheator for Staffs.
Oc. 17 Oct. 1248 ...	Robert de Grendon, Knight (afterwards sheriff, 1250–5).
Oc. 28 Feb. 1251—14 Nov. 1252	Robert de Halechton, Knight (lord of Haughton).
Oc. 24 May, 1254 ...	James Tresel.
Oc. 1255	Nicolas Meverel, Knight (lord of Gayton, possibly a relation of Grendon, then sheriff).
Oc. 16 Aug. 1256—8 Sept. 1259	Philip de Leigh, Knight (lord of Leigh, brother-in-law of Grendon).
Oc. Feb. 1263 ...	Ralph de Coven, Knight (lord of Coven).

Escheators of Staffs. and Salop.

Oc. 7 Dec. 1272—11 Nov. 1274	John fitz Aer (*d.* 1292).
Oc. 29 Jan. 1273—29 June, 1275	John de Erkalewe (lord of Ercal, *d.* 1284).
Oc. 1276–8	Bogo de Knovill, both sheriff and escheator.
Oc. 9 Oct. 1283 ...	Robert Brun.

Escheators of Staffs. only.

Oc. 9 Oct. 1290—Oct. 1292	William de Mere, Knight (lord of Maer, sheriff, M.P., etc.).
Oc. 6 May, 1298 ...	Sir William Wyther, William Wrottesley and the sheriff Ralph de Shirley, subescheators for Salop and Staffs. (I think the sheriffs, or the royal justices specially appointed, acted probably as the subescheators during the period 1292 to 1315.)
Oc. 22 Mar. 1317—8 Feb. 1318	William de Perton, Knight, "King's escheator in the county of Stafford."

ESCHEATORS OF STAFFS., SALOP, AND THE MARCHES.

(From the MS. Calendar of Escheators' Accts. in the P.R.O.)

Date of Appointment.	*Escheators.*
14 Nov. 1321 ...	John Walweyn.[1]
8 Dec. 1323... ...	John de Hampton[1] (lord of Dunstall by Wolverhampton).
26 Feb. 1327 ...	William Trussell, Knight, escheator this side Trent (see *D.N.B.*).
13 Dec. 1327 ...	Robert de Hambury.
Easter, 1328 ...	William de Kaynton.
„ 1329 ...	William de Marchys.
25 Sept. 1329 ...	Thomas le Marchys.
1 May, 1330 ...	William de Kaynton.
24 Oct. 1330 ...	Robert Selyman (of Stafford).
17 Jan. 1331 ...	William Trussell, Knight, escheator this side Trent.
2 July, 1332 ...	Roger Chaundos.[1]
4 Feb. 1333 ...	John de Peyto, jun.[1]
20 Feb. 1335 ...	Adam de Wilughby-or Wileby.[1]
6 Dec. 1335 ...	William Trussell, Knight, escheator this side Trent.
25 Sept. 1339 ...	Richard de Venables[1] (lord of Walton-by-Stone, M.P.).
14 Nov. 1340 ...	John Fitzherbert of Twycros,[1] on Venables' death.
20 Jan. 1341 ...	John de Perton.[1]
19 Nov. 1341 ...	Thomas de Swynnerton (Knight, lord of Swynnerton, M.P., J.P.).[3]
22 Nov. 1343 ...	John de Aston (Knight, lord of Heywood).[3]
5 Aug. 1345 ...	John de Swynnerton (Knight, lord of Hilton, J.P., Sheriff, *d.* 1379).
30 June, 1357 ...	Henry de Prestwood.[2]
25 Sept. 1358 ...	John del (or atte) Wode.
18 Mar. 1362 ...	Philip de Lutteleye[2] (lord of Lutley, M.P., Sheriff, etc.).
5 Oct. 1368 ...	William Banastre, of Yorton.
11 Nov. 1371 ...	Edmund de Burton.
12 Dec. 1372 ...	John de Perton (Knight, lord of Perton, M.P., Sheriff, etc.).
„ 1374 ...	Roger de la Lee.
3 Nov. 1375 ...	Wm. Walshale (King's Squire and Marshal of the Hall, M.P., J.P., Sheriff).
26 Nov. 1377[4] ...	John de Gresley (Knight of Drakelow, M.P., Sheriff).
25 Nov. 1378 ...	Wm. de Walshale.
25 Oct. 1381 ...	Robt. de Swynfen.
1 Nov. 1383 ...	Wm. Walshale.

[1] Escheator of Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester also.

[2] Escheator of Gloucester and Hereford also.

[3] These were Sheriffs of the two counties at the same time as they were Escheators.

[4] From this date till 1485 the names of the escheators have been taken from the List of Foreign Accounts, see p. 234 *ante*.

Date of Appointment.		*Escheators.*
11 Nov. 1384	...	Cornelius de Wyrley (of Handsworth).
20 Oct. 1385	...	Adomar (Tavernor) de Lychefeld (M.P., J.P., and Sheriff).
3 Dec. 1386	...	Wm. de Wolascote (? Walsall).
„ 1387	...	Robt. atte Lee.
„ 1388	...	Edward de Acton.
? 1390	...	John Marescall.
8 Nov. 1391	...	John Delves (heir of Doddington, M.P., J.P., Sheriff).
24 Oct. 1392	...	Wm. Hugford.
24 Nov. 1394	...	Adomar Lichefeld.
„ 1395	...	Thos. Stones.
11 Dec. 1396	...	Wm. Stokley.
16 Nov. 1397	...	Roger de Swynfen (? of Swynfen).
30 Sept. 1399	...	Wm. Banaster (of Yorton, co. Derby).
15 Nov. 1400	...	Wm. Slepe (*d.* March 1401).
		ESCHEATORS FOR STAFFS. ONLY.
12 Mar. 1401	...	Henry Hervile (of Wednesbury), on the death of Slepe.
8 Nov. 1401	...	John Swynerton (of Hilton, M.P., J.P., Sheriff).
29 Nov. 1402	...	Wm. Walshale.
16 Nov. 1403	...	Hugh Stanford ("of Hexstall, gent.," subsheriff, M.P. Bridgnorth and Newcastle).
12 Nov. 1404	...	Wm. Stokley.
1 Dec. 1405	...	John Delves (of Betley and Boddington, M.P., J.P.).
„ 1406	...	John (or Thos.) Bagot.
„ 1407	...	Hugh Stanford (of Hexstall).
? 1408	...	Sir John Bagot (of Blithfield, M.P., J.P., Sheriff).
9 Dec. 1408	...	John Bydolf (of Newcastle, afterwards Mayor and M.P. of the same).
7 Nov. 1409	...	Wm. Lee (of Aston by Stone, M.P., J.P., etc.).
29 Nov. 1410	...	Ric. Norman (of Bould in Droignton).
10 Dec. 1411	...	Wm. Stokley ("dressor of the sideboard" to Henry IV., *d.* 1416).
3 Nov. 1412	...	Thos. Coton (of Rideware Hampstall).
10 Nov. 1413	...	John Delves (of Doddington).
12 Nov. 1414	...	Ric. Knyghtley (of Fawsley).
8 Dec. 1416	...	Thos. Giffard (of Chillington).
30 Nov. 1417	...	Ric. Norman (of Bould).
4 Nov. 1418	...	Ric. Lone (of Bentley, M.P., J.P.).
23 Nov. 1419	...	Wm. Lee (of Aston by Stone).
5 Dec. 1420	...	John Whatecroft (of Harbourne).
20 May, 1422	...	Humphrey Cotes (of Cotes by Eccleshall).
13 Nov. 1424	...	Humphrey Lowe (of Tresel and Seisdon).
27 Jan. 1426	...	Ric. Lone (of Bentley).
17 Dec. 1426	...	Wm. Leventhorp (of Rushall).

Date of Appointment.	*Escheators.*
12 Nov. 1427	Rob. Whitgreve (of Burton-by-Stafford, M.P., J.P., etc.).
4 Nov. 1428	John Harpur (of Rushall, M.P., J.P.).
12 Feb. 1430	Ric. Lone (of Bentley).
5 Nov. 1430	Wm. Lee (of Aston).
26 Nov. 1431	Rob. Whitgreve (of Burton).
5 Nov. 1432	John Harpur (of Rushall).
23 Nov. 1433	Thos. Coton (of Ridware Hampstall).
3 Nov. 1434	Rob. Whitgreve (of Burton).
7 Nov. 1435	Wm. Hexstall (of Ashley, *j.u.*, M.P., subsheriff).
23 Nov. 1436	John Joce (of Hanchurch).
„ 1437	John Wood (of Keele, M.P., and afterwards Mayor of Newcastle).
6 Nov. 1438	Rob. Whitgreve (of Burton).
„ 1439	John Harpur (of Rushall).
„ 1440	Humphrey Cotes (of Cotes).
1441	Rob. Whitgreve (of Burton).
1442	Thos. Coton (of Rideware Hampstall).
6 Nov. 1443	Nic. Leveson (of Wolverhampton).
„ 1444	Nic. Warenges (of Wolverhampton).
„ 1445	Humphrey Blunt.
„ 1446	John Barbour (of Stafford).
„ 1447	Wm. Vernon (Knight, of Harlaston).
„ 1448	John Archer (of Statfold).
11 Dec. 1449	Ric. Beaufo, arm. (of Hilton).
„ 1450	John Gresley (Knight, of Drakelow).
„ 1451	Thos. Bate.
„ 1452	Roger Draycote, arm. (of Paynsley, afterwards knighted).
3 Dec. 1453	Nic. Leveson, arm. (of Wolverhampton).
6 Nov. 1454	John Cotes (of Cotes by Eccleshall).
4 Nov. 1455	Wm. Colwyche (of Colwich).
„ 1456	Wm. Humphreston.
7 Nov. 1457	Humphrey Swynerton, arm. (of Swynnerton).
„ 1458	Wm. Colwyche (of Colwich).
„ 1459	Hugh Damport (Davenport of Mauvesyn Ridware).[1]
„ 1460	Robert Cony, arm. (of Weston-Coyney).
8 Nov. 1461	Thos. Erdeswyk (of Sandon).
4 Nov. 1463	Robt. Hille (of Marchington).
5 Nov. 1464	John Lee.
„ 1465	Wm. Owdeby.
„ 1466	Nic. Agard.
„ 1467	Philip Preston.
„ 1468	Ric. Rede.
„ 1469	Geo. Stanley (of Elford).

[1] See *Staff. Cols.*, III, N.S., p. 102.

Date of Appointment.		*Escheators.*
6 Nov. 1470	...	John Cawardyn (of Mauveysin Ridware).
7 Nov. 1471	...	John Myners.
5 Nov. 1472	...	Thos. Wodell.
„ 1473	...	Thos. Swyneshed (of Swynshead).
„ 1474	...	Humphrey Swynerton, arm.
„ 1479	...	Wm. Harpur (of Rushall, Sheriff and Justice).
„ 1480	...	Ric. Ruggele.
6 Nov. 1483	...	John Agard.
10 Dec. 1484	...	Robt. Hille (of Houndhill).

(The following are taken from the *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, X, *App.* ii.)

1 Nov. 1485	...	William Harper, sen. (of Rushall).
5 Nov. 1486	...	Robert Mershe.
1487–?	...	Thomas Woodshawe (see *S.C.*, III, 107).
		? ? ?
1492–3	...	Louis Lloyt.
5 Nov. 1493	...	Account rendered by Edward Fowke, son and heir of William Fowke, escheator, deceased.
1497–?	...	Edward Knight.
		? ? ?
1501–9	...	Thomas Wildecote.
1509–10	...	Thomas Harcourt, arm. (of Ranton).
1510–1	...	Richard Astley, arm. (of Patshull).
1511–2	...	Thomas Swynerton, arm.
16 Nov. 1512	...	John Wellys (of Hoarcross).
1 Nov. 1513	...	John Strethay (of Strethay).
1514–5	...	Geo. Wylkes, arm. (of Wolverhampton).
1515–6	...	John Egerton, arm. (of Wrinehill).
1516–7	...	John Beresford.
1517–8	...	Edward Lyttelton, arm. (of Pillatonhall).
1518–9	...	Thomas Kynnersley (of Loxley).
1519–20	...	Thomas Comberford (of Comberford).
1520–1	...	Thomas Partriche, arm. (of King's Bromley).
1521–2	...	John Vernon.
1522–3	...	Richard Astley (of Patshull).
1523–4	...	Thomas Gyfford, arm. (of Chillington, afterwards knighted).
1524–5	...	Thomas Kynnersley, arm. (of Loxley).
1525–6	...	Thomas Partriche, arm.
1526–7	...	Richard Astley, arm.
1527–8	...	Walter Wrottesley, arm. (of Wrottesley).
1528–9	...	Thomas Skrymasher (of Norbury).

Date of Appointment.	*Escheators.*
1529–30 ...	Philip Draycote (of Paynsley, afterwards knight).
1530–1 ...	John Wolseley, arm.
28 Nov. 1531–2 ...	William Chetwyne, arm. (of Ingestre, *d.* 1546).
1532–3–4...	Walter Wrotesley, arm. (of Wrottesley).
12 Feb. 1534 ...	Richard Harcourt, arm. (of Church Eaton).
Nov. 1534–5 ...	? ? ?
1535–6 ...	Thomas Skrynsher, arm. (of Norbury).
1536–7 ...	James Thyrkell, arm. (of Smalwood).
1537–8 ...	Thomas Gifford, arm. (eld. son of Sir John).
1538–9 ...	Richard Bedyll, arm. (of Biddulph).
1539–40 ...	John Wolseley, arm.
1540–1 ...	? ? ?
1541–2 ...	Humphrey Mynor, arm.
1542–3 ...	Samson Erdisweke, arm. (of Sandon).
1543–4 ...	Humphrey Welles, arm. (of Hoarcross).
1544–8 ...	

(The following are taken from *Escheators' Enrolled Accounts, L. T. R.*, 130 (P.R.O.).)

5 Dec. 1548 ...	John Oteley, arm. (of Pichford, co. Salop).
12 Nov. 1549 ...	Richard Bedell, arm. (of Biddulph).
11 Nov. 1550 ...	Brian Fowler, arm. (of St. Thomas').
„ 1551 ...	Humphrey Welles, arm. (of Hoarcross).
20 Nov. 1552 ...	John Otteley, arm.
28 Nov. 1553 ...	William Greseley, arm.
	? ? ? (2 years).
13 Nov. 1556 ...	Humphrey Welles, arm.
„ 1557 ...	? ? ? (2 years).
8 Feb. 1559 ...	Humphrey Swynerton, arm.
28 Feb. 1560 ...	Edward James, arm. (Steward of the Manor of Himley).
15 Dec. 1563 ...	Ralph Okar, arm. (of Okeover, Sheriff 1564–5).
11 July, 1569 ...	Matthew Mooreton, arm. (of Engleton).
26 May, 1571 ...	Francis Mountford, arm. (of Walsall foreign).
16 May, 1573 ...	Christofer Heveningham, arm.
1 Ap. 1579 ...	William Unwyn, arm. (of Chatterley).
1 Mar. 1580 ...	Thomas Moreton, arm. (of Moreton).
23 Jan. 1585 ...	Godfrey Fulljambe, arm. (of Croxden).
24 Jan. 1586 ...	William Ragrley, arm. (? Rugeley).
20 Jan. 1587 ...	Edward Barber, arm. (of Flashbrook).
1588–92 ...	? ? ? (4 years).
7 Mar. 1592 ...	Edward Shadwell, arm.
8 Feb. 1593 ...	William Horwood, arm.

Date of Appointment.	*Escheators.*
8 Feb. 1594	... John Fooke, arm.
„ 1595	... James Scrinshawe, arm. (of Norbury).
„ 1596	... John Chadwicke, arm.
31 Jan. 1597	... William Greene, gent.
6 Feb. 1598	... John Mytton, arm. (of Weston-under-Lizeard).
12 Dec. 1598	... William Skevington, arm.
1 Feb. 1600	... Thomas Ruddiard, arm. (of Rudyard).
„ 1601	... John Walkeringe, arm.
„ 1602	... Edward Baresford, arm.
31 Jan. 1603	... Edward James, arm.
13 Feb. 1604	... John Wegewood, arm. (of Harracles).
30 Dec. 1604	... John Persehouse, arm. (of Sedgley).
27 Jan. 1606	... Thomas Congreave, arm. (of Stretton).
28 Nov. 1606	... Richard Barbour, arm.
11 Nov. 1607	... Thomas Allablaster, arm. (of Longdon).
13 Feb. 1609	... Thomas Astley, arm.
22 Mar. 1610	... Richard Adderley, arm. (of Coton).
8 Mar. 1611	... ? ? ? (1 year).
8 Dec. 1612	... Thomas Allott, arm.
10 Dec. 1613	... George Allicocke, arm.
„ 1614	... ? ? ? (1 year).
27 Nov. 1615	... George Beardmore, arm.
25 Nov. 1616	... John Smyth, arm. (sometime Mayor of Newcastle).
28 Nov. 1618	... William Barnesley, arm. (of Trysull).
30 Nov. 1619	... John Kenricke, arm.

(*No more to be found.*)

KEEPERS AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE duty of conservation of the peace lay primarily with the holders of certain offices, within the sphere of their office. The justices of the king's bench, for instance, were *conservatores* or keepers of the peace within the whole kingdom ; the sheriff and coroner within their county ; the head boroughs in their townships. The keepers of the peace, however, with whom we are concerned are not those who held *virtute officii*, but those specially appointed. In 1242 six *servientes* are to be provided by the bishop to guard the king's peace in the county of Stafford, and they receive 1*d.* a day as pay.[1] These were mere policeman and it was not till after the Parliament at Oxford in 1258 that leading men in the counties are to be found as keepers. These are called *custos* not *conservator*, and their office was rather to look after the sheriff in the interest of the barons' party than to act as keeper of the peace. They supervised and perhaps supplanted the authority of the king's servant, the sheriff. Probably they were elected by the freeholders, at least nominally. On a change of sheriff it is these keepers that "deliver" the county to the new sheriff.

By a writ enrolled on the Patent Rolls, custodians of the Peace were appointed in each county on July 20th, 1263, "to cause swift justice to be done . . . the king commands all lieges to assist the keeper . . . he shall take to himself the keepers who were sheriffs before." This looks as though the specially appointed *custodes pacis* could only date from July, 1263, but Ralph Basset of Drayton is spoken of as *custos* in 1262–3, and on August 10th, 1263, it is Roger de Somery, lord of Dudley, who, as *custos*, delivers the counties of Staffordshire, Salop, and the Marches to the new sheriff Hamo L'Estrange.[2] In all earlier appointments of sheriffs it had been the previous sheriff who was directed to "deliver." In November, 1263, Hamo L'Estrange

[1] Close Rolls.

[2] Patent Rolls.

himself is spoken of as *custos*, probably in right of his position as sheriff. Sometime after the Battle of Lewes, Ralph Basset of Drayton was made keeper of the peace for the counties, for on March 7th, 1265, it is he who delivers them to the new sheriff, Robert de Grendon.

After the fall of Simon de Montfort nothing more is heard of keepers of the peace till Edward I. was firmly on the throne. Then by the statute of 1277 *conservatores pacis* were to be chosen by the whole county, under the king's writ directed to the sheriff: but there is no trace in Staffordshire of this having been acted on. Among the Patent Rolls one finds, indeed, May 27th, 1280, a commission to Roger de Sprenghoes to enquire touching vagabonds in counties Staffordshire and Salop, but the peace and vagabonds were not so nearly associated then as they came to be later.

We find, too, a *custos* in the appointment, not election, of Bogo (Bevis) de Knovil, constable of Carnarvon, to the custody of the peace, especially during the absence of the king from the realm, in Staffordshire, Salop, Hereford, and Worcestershire, July 30th, 1297,[1] but this can hardly have been the elected *conservator* contemplated in the statute of 1277.

More, indeed a whole series of *custodes pacis*, commence with the accession of Edward II. But again they are not at first *conservatores* and are apparently appointed throughout the reign, not elected.

To be *custodes pacis*, during the king's absence beyond the seas :—

24 Dec. 1307[2]	...	William de Stafford (Knight, of Sandon). William Trumwyn (Knight, of Cannock). The sheriff (Roger Trumwyn, Knight, of Sandon).

To be *conservatores pacis*, during pleasure :—

17 Mar. 1308[2]	...	the same as before—Stafford, Trumwyn, and the sheriff.
1 Ap. 1310[1]...	...	the same as before, but the sheriff was then either Hugh de Audley the elder, or Hugh de Croft.
13 Ap. 1314[2]	...	William de Stafford. William Trumwyn.
5 June, 1314[2]	...	the same and William de Mere (Knight, of Maer).

[1] Close Rolls. [2] Patent Rolls.

That these keepers held by now a position very like that of the sheriff can be seen from the writ of June 18th, 1314,[1] in which the behaviour of the sheriffs and keepers of the peace is to be reported on by William Trussel, William de Mere, and Robert (*sic!*) de Rolleston (Sir William de Mere apparently reporting on himself). A similar writ of December 4th, 1314,[1] appoints Peter Corbet, John Hastanges, William Trussel the elder, and Ralph de Rolleston to report on the same officials. They seem to have discovered that Sir William de Mere would not suit.

To be *conservatores pacis*, during pleasure:—

14 June, 1316[1]	...	John Hastanges (Knight of Chebsey). William de Stafford.
3 Nov. 1317[1]	...	Roger de Swynarton, appointed *superior conservator pacis*.

To be *conservatores pacis*, pursuant to the statute of Winchester:—

6 Jan. 1320[1]	...	John de Hastinges. Ralph le Botiler (lord of Norbury).
18 June, 1320[1]	...	John de Somery (Baron of Dudley). Ralph Basset of Drayton (Baron of Drayton). Ralph le Botiler.
27 Aug. 1325[1]	...	Philip de Somervill (of Wichnor). Robert de Knyghteleye (of Knightley).

Whether these "good and lawful men" were elected, self-elected, or appointed, and there are signs of all three methods in the names and dates, with the deposition of Edward II. matters were put on a regular footing. By the statute of 1 Edward III. (1327) the keepers were "*assigned* to keep the peace," and thenceforward we have regular commissions every few years, and the same names appear time after time. At 1327 then, the Staffordshire list here printed begins.

From "keepers" of the peace they gradually developed into justices. By the statute of 1344 "two or three of the best reputation in the counties shall be assigned keepers of the peace by the king's commission, and, at what time need shall be, the same, with other wise and learned in the law, shall be assigned to hear and determine (*oyer et terminer*) felonies and

[1] Patent Rolls.

trespasses done against the peace." The king's justices were associated with them on all judicial commissions to deliver the gaols, to hear and determine, or to administer the statutes of labourers.

By the statute of 34 Edward III. (1360) they were first called "justices" of the peace, and their duties and powers were extended. They obtained then, or are popularly supposed to have obtained, that power to bind to the peace which has been so formidable a weapon in their hands. By a statute of 1388 it is provided that there shall be at least six in each county and that they shall sit once a quarter. Two years later the minimum is raised to eight and payment for their services is arranged for.

So the Commission of the Peace came to consist of two elements, the royal justices and the local gentry, and the former were always "of the quorum," as being necessary to do real justice. By the end of the sixteenth century it had become the custom for all the justices to be put on the *quorum* after a year or two of apprenticeship. Thus the local landowners on the commission of the peace in each county superseded the feudal system and became the real rulers of the county.

The rise of the justices went hand in hand with the fall of the sheriffs and of the feudal power. As late as 1410, in Staffordshire, the sheriff was still a large factor, both in his executive and in his judicial capacity, but even then the justices were supplanting him in both functions. The commissioners of array were drawn from the bench: the number on the bench grew larger, and the names upon the commission of the peace more consequential. The duke and bishop found a place; the Prince of Wales was added under Henry VII. The Lord Lieutenant who, under Henry VIII., took the last shred of actual power from the sheriff, was their chief.

All local administration fell into their hands when rates began to be levied, and for 400 years the justices of the peace, in quarter and petty sessions, judged and administered the county. Paving, vagabonds, poor relief, highways, draining, police, bridges, wages, licensing, asylums, all came in turn under their purview and control: and such power raised the status of the local squires of England into a position held by no other

squirarchy in Europe. The nobility might attend Court; the squires attended to business and to their own interests, and, when it became necessary, went to Parliament and voted down the Court for those interests.

With the help of their Parliament the power of the justices of the peace rose to its zenith in the eighteenth century. The grand jury and hundred jury, which had made presentments to them, and had had a sort of democratic character, abandoned their functions, and individual justices superseded them in making presentments. Magistrates administered uncontrolled a drastic code for the punishment of vagrants, trespassers and poachers, without jurors or publicity.[1] What that power was can be seen from contemporary novels. Richardson says quite casually that, as Mr. B. was a magistrate for two counties, it was hopeless for *Pamela*, whom he wished to seduce, to elude his pursuit, even if she escaped from her duress in his country house.

Until the time of the Great Rebellion the Privy Council expected judges of assize to choose suitable persons for magistrates. Even till the time of George I. they were made and unmade according to the political prepossessions of the Government. But after that date the Lord Lieutenant's recommendations became decisive and dismissal from the bench unknown.

With the nineteenth century their numbers increased and their powers diminished. The reforms of the 'thirties, press publicity, the increasing power of the middle and working classes, all affected them adversely. In recent times, in 1888 and 1893, the formation of parish and county councils has taken away all their executive powers save only their control over the licensing and police; but then, under another name indeed, the same class still continue to control the old things as aldermen and councillors of the new bodies.

[1] Hammond "*The Village Labourer*."

EDWARD III., KEEPERS OF THE PEACE (1327-60).

Date of Appointment.		
8 Mar. 1327[1]	...	Thomas de Pipe (of Pipe).
(cancelled)		Philip de Somervill (of Wichnor, *d.* 1355).
28 Ap. 1327	...	Philip de Somervill.
		Ralph le Botiler (of Norbury).
10 Sept. 1327	...	Philip de Somervill.
		Philip de Baryngton (of Crakemarsh, *d.* 1327).
		Robert de Knyghtleye (of Knightley, *d.* 1327).
18 Feb. 1331 (for Salop, Staffs., Glos., and Hereford)		Ralph Basset of Drayton (*d.* 1344).
		William le Botiler of Wemme (*d.* 1334).
		Henry de Hambury.
		Roger Hillary.
16 Feb. 1331	...	John de Twiford.
		Philip de Somervill.
		Ralph le Botiler.
12 Feb. 1332	...	Thomas de Halghton (of Haughton).
		Ralph le Botiller.
		William de Birmyngham.
21 Mar. 1332	...	Ralph Basset (of Drayton).
		Ralph de Stafford (baron of Stafford).
		Ralph le Botiller.
		Thomas de Halghton, the elder.
		Roger Hillary (Chief Justice, *d.* 1355).
22 May, 1332	...	Richard de Wylughby is associated with the above.
12 June, 1332	...	Philip de Somervill, in place of Stafford.
20 Sept. 1332	...	Richard de la Pole is associated with the above.
9 Nov. 1332	...	Ralph, baron of Stafford, is associated with the above.
26 July, 1335	...	Philip de Somervill.
		John Myners (Knight, of Blakenhall and Myners, *d.* 1348-9).
4 Aug. 1336	...	Philip de Somervill.
		John de Swynnerton (of Hilton, *d.* 1340).
6 Sept. 1336	...	James de Audele (baron of Audley).
		Thomas de Furnival (baron of Alton).
		Roger de Swynnerton (baron[2] of Swynnerton, *d.* 1338).
		Thomas de Halghton (of Haughton).
		Philip de Somervill (Knight of Wichnor, *d.* 1355).
		John de Swynnerton (Knight of Hilton, *d.* 1340).

[1] Except where otherwise stated, all the appointments, down to 1547, are taken from the backs of the Patent Rolls.

[2] Summoned by writ, April 23, 1337.

Date of Appointment.		
6 July, 1338	...	Ralph Basset of Drayton.
		Thomas de Halghton.
		Malcolm de Wasteneys (of Colton).
		Ralph le Botiller (of Norbury).
		John de la Lee.
27 Nov. 1341	...	Richard de Stafford (of Pipe, *d.* 1380).
		Robert Mauveysin (of Mauveysin Ridware, *d.* in France 1346–7).
		John de Aston (of Heywood, *d.* 1353).
		Richard de la Pole (of Hartington, a royal justice).
		John du Lee.
20 July, 1344	...	John Trussel of Cublesdon.
		John Bagot of Bromley (*d.* 1349–50).
		John de Aston (of Heywood).
		John de la Lee.
		John de Ipstanes (of Ipstones).
20 Aug. 1345	...	John de Sutton of Duddleleye.
		Thomas de Halughton (of Haughton).
		John Bagot.
		John du Lee.
		John Ippestanes (Knight of Ipstones and Weston-under-Lizeard).
16 July, 1346	...	Thomas de Halughton.
		John de Chetwynd.
		John de Stafford (Knight, of Sandon).
		John de Lee.
15 Mar. 1351	...	Ralph, Earl of Stafford (see *D.N.B.*).
		Roger Hillary (Chief Justice of the Common Bench, *d.* 1355).
		Thomas de Swynnerton (Knight, of Swynnerton, *b.* 1313, *d.* 1361).
		Richard de Stafford (Knight, of Pipe, see *D.N.B.*).
		Nicholas de Beek (Knight, of Hopton and Tean, *d.* 1369).
		Richard de la Pole (Justice of Assize).
		William de Chiltenham (Justice of Assize).
		John de Swynnerton of Hulton (*d.* 1379).
		John Delves.
15 Feb. 1355	...	Ralph, Earl of Stafford.
		John de Sutton of Dudley.
		William de Shareshull (Chief Justice of the King's Bench, see *D.N.B.*).
		Roger Hillary (Chief Justice of the Common Bench).
		Roger de Aston (Knight, of Heywood, *d.* 1361).
		Hugh de Aston (of Aston in Colefield, Clerk of the Common Bench).

Date of Appointment.	
15 Feb. 1355—*contd.*	John de Swynnerton of Hulton.
	Richard de Somerford.
	John du Lee (? Queen Isabel's steward).
26 Oct. 1356 ...	Robert de Bowode, *vice* Hillary, deceased.
oc. 8 Feb. 1358[1]	Robert de Bowode is paid 100*s.* for his wages as Justice.
20 Dec. 1358 ...	Ralph, Earl of Stafford.
	John de Sutton of Dudley.
	William de Shareshull (of Patshull and Shareshill, ex-Chief Justice).
	Henry de Motelowe (Knight, Justice of the Common Bench).
	Hugh de Aston.
	John du Lee.
	John de Swynnerton of Hulton.
	Richard de Somerford.
5 Dec. 1359 ...	William de Shareshull.[2]
	Henry Greene.[2]
	William de Fyncheden.[2]
	John du Lee.
	John de Swynnerton of Hulton.
	Richard de Somerford.

EDWARD III., JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (1360–77).

a=30 Mar. 1361	e=.....1364	k =5 July, 1373
b=10 Dec. 1361	f=oc. in 1366[1]	l =6 Dec. 1375
c=3 July, 1362	g=8 Oct. 1368	m=14 Mar. 1377
d=16 Mar. 1363	h=12 Feb. 1373	

Ralph, Earl of Stafford (*d.* 1372). a, b, c, e, f, g.
Hugh, Earl of Stafford (*d.* 1386). h, k, l, m.
John de Ferrers (Baron of Chartley, *d.* 1368). a, b.
James de Audele of Helegh (Baron Audley, *d.* 1386). c, k, l.
Ralph Basset of Drayton (Baron Basset, *d.* 1390). g, h, k, l, m.
Richard de Stafford (Baron of Pipe, *d.* 1380). a, b, c, e, g, h, k.
Ralph de Ferrers (Captain of Calais). l, m.
William de Shareshull (Knight, of Patshull and Shareshill, ex-Chief Justice). a, b, c, d, e, f.
Richard de Duddeleye. k, l.
Godfrey de Foljambe. c.
Roger Hillary. b.

[1] Close Rolls. [2] Of the *quorum*.

Godfrey de Foljambe, jun. h.
Nicholas de Beek (Knight, of Hopton and Tean, *d.* 1369). a, b[3] c, d, e, f, g.
Hugh de Wrottesleye (Knight, of Wrottesley, *d.* 1381). b.
John de Perton (Knight, of Perton, *d.* 1388–9). b.
James de Pype (Knight). f.
John de Swynnerton of Hilton (*d.* 1379). d, e, f, g, h.
John de Middelton. g, h.
John de Draycote (Knight, of Draycote).[1] h, k.
John de Verdon (Knight, of Darlaston, *d. c.* 1382). k, l, m.
Roger de Aston (Knight, of Heywood, *d.* 1361). a.
John de Delves (of Apedale, etc.). c.
Robert de Shareshull. b.
William Banastre of Hadenhale. c.
John de la Lee. d, e, f.
Thomas Gegge of Neuport. f.
John de Allerwas. g.
John de la Pole (of Hartington). h, k, l, m.
Simon de Litchfeld. h, k, l, m.
Adomar de Litchfeld. m.

(Royal Justices.)

Richard de Somerford (*d.* 1361). a.
John de Brumpton. b.
John Moubray. g, h.
William de Wakebrigge. g.
William Tauk. h, k.
Walter Perlee. k, l.
David Hanmere. l, m.
Roger de Kirketon. m.

RICHARD II. (1377–99).

a=2 July, 1377	f=28 May, 1386	l=23 Feb. 1392
b=26 May, 1380	g=15 Aug. 1386	m=18 June, 1394
c=20 Aug. 1380	h=15 July, 1389	n=12 Nov. 1397
d=8 Mar. 1382	i=28 June, 1390	
e=21 Dec. 1382	k=6 Dec. 1391	

John (of Gaunt), Duke of Lancaster. b, c, e, 24 Dec. 1390, k, l, m, n.
Henry, Duke of Hereford (afterwards Henry IV). n.
John de Beaufort, Marquis of Dorset. n.
Hugh, Earl of Stafford (*d.* 1386). a, b, c, d, e, f, g.

[1] He was married to Joan, daughter of Sir John Stafford of Bramshall.

Edmund, Earl of Stafford (*d.* 1403). n.
Thomas Despencer, Earl of Gloucester. n.
Nicholas de Audley (Baron Audley 1386, *d.* 1391). f, g.
Ralph Basset of Drayton (*d.* 1390). a, b, c, d, e, f, g.
Richard de Stafford (Baron of Pipe and Clifton, Knight, *d.* 1380). a, b.
Richard de Duddeley. b, c.
Nicholas de Stafford (Knight, of Throwley, *j.u.*, *d.* 1394). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l.
Ralph de Ferrers (Knight). a.
Robert de Ferrers (Knight, Lord F. of Chartley, *b.* 1361, *d.* 1411). d.
Humphrey de Stafford (Knight, of Bramshall and Amblecot). e.
John de Verdon (Knight, of Darlaston, *d.* 1382–3). a, d, e.
Walter le Blount (Knight, of Barton Blount,[1] co. Derby, slain 1403). b, c, e, f, g.
Thomas Neuport. b, c, e, f, g, i, l, m.
John Basset, of Chedele (Knight, *d.* 1410–1). d, e.
Richard de Peeshale (Knight, of Horsley, and of Chetwynd *j.u.*, *d. c.* 1387). d, e.
Adam de Peeshale (Knight, of Weston-under-Lizeard, *d.* 1419). d, e.
Thomas de Aston (Knight, of Heywood, *d. c.* 1412). d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m.
Thomas de Stafford (Knight, of Sheyle, co. Leic., *d.* 1394–1400). d, e.
William Shareshull (Knight, of Patshull, *d.* 1400). m, n.
Robert Fraunceys (Knight, of Foremark, co. Derby, *d.* 1417–20). n.
Simon de Lichefeld. a, b, c, d, e, f, g.
Aylmer (Taverner) de Lichefeld. a, b, c, h, n.
John de Knyghtleye the elder, *vice* A. de Lichefeld, 25 May, 1378. b, c, e.
John, son of Robert de Knyghtleye. b, c, e.
John de Knyghtleye of Wirlegh. f, g.
William de Haloghton (of Haughton, *d.* 1382). d, e.
John de Hinkele (of Stoke by Stone). d, e.
Robert de Knyghteley. d, e.
Richard Hampton. e.
Robert Burgiloun. f, g, h, i, k, l, m.
John Knyghtleye the younger. g, h, i, k, m, n.
William Chetwynd (Knight, of Ingestre, *d.* 1395). h, i, k, l.
John Delves (*d.* 1393–4). k, l.
Nicholas Bradshawe (J.P. Northants also). n.

(Royal Justices.)

Roger de Kirketon (Justice of Oyer in Yorks). a.
David Hanmere (Justice of the King's Bench). a, b, c, d, e.
John de la Pole (of Hartington, Justice of N. Wales). a.
Robert Tresilian[1] (Chief Justice of the King's Bench and knighted 1381, hanged by the Lord's Appellant, 1388). b, c.
Robert Bealknap[1] (Chief Justice of the Common Bench 1374, knighted 1385, banished in 1388, *d.* 1400). e, g.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

Robert Cherlton (Chief Justice of the Common Bench). g, h, i, k, l, m.
John Hill (Justice of the King's Bench). h, i, k, l, m, n.
Hugh Huls (Justice of the King's Bench). n.
William Frodesham (Chamberlain of Carnarvon). n.

HENRY IV. AND HENRY V. (1399–1423).

a=28 Nov. 1399
b=16 May, 1401
c=8 Feb 1406
d=20 Feb. 1407
e=12 June, 1412
f=21 Mar. 1413
g=16 Nov. 1413
h=6 July, 1415
i=4 Dec. 1417
k=8 July, 1420
l=12 Feb. 1422

Richard, Earl of Warwick. g, h.
Edmund, Earl of Stafford[1] (slain at Shrewsbury, 1403). a, b.
Thomas Nevyll of Halomshire (Lord of Alton, Treasurer of England). c, d.
John Talbot of Halomshire (Lord of Alton). e, f, g, h.
John Touchet (Lord Audley). c, d.
Hugh Burnel (Lord Burnel). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Hugh Stafford (Knight, of co. Essex, brother of Edmund). d, e, f, g, h.
John Bagot (Knight, of Blithfield, *d.* 1437). e, i, k, l.
Thomas Aston (Knight, of Heywood). a, b.
Robert Fraunceys (Knight, of Foremark, co. Derby). a, b, c, d, i.
Richard Vernon[1] (Knight, of Harlaston, etc., the Speaker). i, k.
Nicholas Montgomery the younger (Knight, of Marston, co. Derby). k, l.
Robert Bapthorpe, chiv. (Controller of the Household). l.
Thomas Griseley, chiv. (of Drakelow). l.
Roger Flore, Chief Steward of the Duchy in Staffs. i, k, l.
Robert Mauvesyn (of Mauveysin Ridware). b.
William Walshale (of Rushall, *d.* 1415–6). e, f.
John Blount (K.G. 1413).[1] e, f.
Thomas Harcourt (Knight, of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt, *d.* 1420). g, h.
John Delves. g, h, k.
Richard Lone (of Bentley). g, h, i, k, l.
Hugh Erdeswick (of Sandon). h, k, l.
William del Lee. h.
William Lee of Podmore. i.
William Lee of Aston. i.
Nicholas Bradshawe. a, b, c, d.
John Knyghtle (*d.* 1416–7). a, b, c, d, e, f, g.
Richard Knyghtle (of Fawsley). l.
John Whethales. a, b, c, d.
William Slepe. a.
Thomas Greneway (of Greenway Bank, Tunstall). e, f.
John Preston. i.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

(Royal Justices.)

John Hill (Justice of the King's Bench and of the Common Bench). a, b, c.

Hugh Holes or Huls (Justice of the King's Bench). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.

Roger Leche. c, e, f, g, h.

Roger Horton (Justice of the King's Bench). d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l.

Thomas Heuster. d, e, f, g, i, k, l.

William Babbington[1] (Chief Justice of the Common Bench 1423, and Chief Baron of the Exchequer 1419, *d.* 1455). k.

John Juyn (a Justice in Hereford, Oxon, Salop and Worcester). l.

HENRY VI. (1423–60).

a=7 July, 1423	g=20 Nov. 1441	n=22 Ap. 1454
b=20 July, 1424	h=12 Nov. 1442	o=16 July, 1454
c=24 Mar. 1430	i=6 Dec. 1446	p=22 Jan. 1456
d=22 May, 1430	k=4 July, 1449	q=9 May, 1456
e=.....1432	l=20 Nov. 1453	r=24 Feb. 1459
f=21 Feb. 1439	m=14 Dec. 1453	s=18 Mar. 1460

Richard, Duke of York.[1] o, p, q, r.

Richard (Nevil), Earl of Warwick.[1] n, o, p, q, r.

Richard (Beauchamp), Earl of Warwick. c, d, e, f.

William (de la Pole), Earl of Suffolk,[1] Chief Steward of the Duchy. f, k.

Humphrey, Earl of Stafford.[1] c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

John (Talbot), Earl of Shrewsbury. a, b, c, d, e, f, o, p, q, r, s.

William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. k.

R., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

William Lovell, chiv. (7th Lord Lovell, *d.* 1454).

James Audley, chiv. (Lord Audley, slain, 1459). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r.

John Sutton of Duddeley, chiv.[1] (Lord Dudley). d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Edmund Ferrers, chiv. (Lord Ferrers of Chartley, *d.* 1435). c, d, e.

William Ferrers, chiv. (Lord Ferrers of Chartley, *d.* 1449–50). g, h, i, k, l (*sic*).

Humphrey Stafford, chiv., son and heir of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham. q.

Nicholas Mongomery, chiv., the younger. a, b.

John Bagot, chiv. (*d.* 1437). a, b, c, d, e.

Richard Vernon, chiv.[1] (of Harlaston and Haddon, *d.* 1451). c, d.

William Vernon, chiv. (of the same). s.

Roger de Aston, chiv. (of Heywood, *d.* 1467). c, d, e, f, g, h, i.

Sampson Meverell, chiv. (of Throwley, *d.* 1459–69). k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

John Tyrell, chiv., Chief Steward of the Duchy in Staffs. (Treasurer of the Household). c, d, e.

Roger Flore, Chief Steward of the Duchy in Staffs. a, b.

Hugh Erdeswick (of Sandon). a.

Richard Lone (of Bentley). a, b, c, d, e.

William Lee (of Aston). a, b, c, d, e, f, g.

Richard Knyghtle. a, b.

John Harpur (of Rushall). c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

John Hampton (of Stourton, *d.* 1472). f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Thomas Arblaster (of Longdon). f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Robert Whitgreve (of Burton by Stafford, Teller of the Exchequer). f, g, h, i, k, l.

William Comberford (of Comberford). h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Thomas Wolseley (of Wolseley). m, n, o, p, q.

Roger Draycot (of Paynesley). m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Thomas Everdon. p, q.

(Royal Justices.)

John Martyn (Justice of the Common Bench). a.

John Juyn (Chief Justice of the Bench and Chief Baron). a.

John Hals (Justice of the Common and of the King's Bench). b, c, d.

Thomas Rolf (a Justice also in co. Essex). b, c, d, e.

William Westbury (Justice of the King's Bench). e, f, g, h.

John Hody[1] (Chief Justice of the King's Bench and knighted, 1440, *d.* 1441). f.

William Goderede (Justice). g.

William Yelverton[1] (Justice of the King's Bench, 1443, knighted, 1461, *d.* ?1472). h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q.

Richard Byngham (Justice of the King's Bench). i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.

Richard Choke[1] (King's Serjeant-at-Law, 1453, Justice of Common Pleas, 1461, knighted, 1464, *d.* 1483). r, s.

EDWARD IV., EDWARD V., RICHARD III. (1460–85).

a=8 July, 1461	h=29 Mar. 1469	p=23 Feb. 1478
b=11 Dec. 1463	i=4 Dec. 1470	q=11 Nov. 1480
c=12 Feb. 1464	k=8 July, 1471	r=26 June, 1483
d=15 July, 1464	l=2 July, 1472	s=30 July, 1483
e=3 June, 1465	m=4 Ap. 1473.	t=5 Dec. 1483
f=18 Feb. 1467	n=12 Feb. 1474	u=18 Feb. 1484
g=16 Nov. 1468	o=10 Nov. 1475	w=13 Mar. 1485

J. Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.

George, Duke of Clarence.[1] g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

Richard, Duke of Gloucester[1] (Richard III.). k, l, m, n, o, p, q.
Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham.[1] k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.
John (Howard), Duke of Norfolk.[1] r, s, t, u, w.
Richard (Nevil), Earl of Warwick.[1] a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i.
John (Talbot), Earl of Shrewsbury. f, g, h, i, k, l, m.
John (Butler), Earl of Wilts.[1] k, l, m.
Edward (Grey), Viscount Lisle. s, t, u, w.
John Audeley of Audeley (Lord Audley). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s.
John Sutton of Dudley, chiv.[1] (Lord Dudley). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
Henry Grey of Codnor, chiv. (Lord Grey). g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
John Ferrers, chiv. (of Tamworth). q, r, s.
Walter Blount of Mountjoye, chiv.[1] (Lord Mountjoye, Treasurer, *d.* 1474). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
John Blount of Mountjoye, chiv.[1] (Lord Mountjoye, *d.* 1485). p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
William Hastinges of Hastinges, chiv.[1] (Lord Hastings, King's Chamberlain). k, l, m, n, o, p, q.
Thomas Asteley, chiv. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Walter Wrottesley, chiv.[1] (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1473). a, b, c, e, f, g, h, i.
John Gresley, chiv. c, d, e, f, g, h, i, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
John Stanley, chiv. (of Pipe and Clifton). g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o.
Thomas Littleton[1] (Justice of the Common Pleas). g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p (Knight), q.
Nicholas Mountgomery (of Cubley, co. Derby). r, s, t, u (Knight), w.
John Harpour (of Rushall). a, b, c.
William Comberford (of Comberford). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k.
Thomas Everdon. a.
Nicholas Warynges (of Wolverhampton). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
Thomas Wolseley (of Wolseley). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
John Delves (of Apedale, etc.). b, c, d, e, f, g, h (slain at Tewkesbury, 1471).
Richard Wolseley. b, c.
Ralph Wolseley. d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w (Victualler of Calais).
John Wode (of Keele) (? Master of the Ordnance). e, f, g, h, i, m, n.
Humphrey Perseal (? Hugh). u, w.
William Wylkes (of Willenhall). u, w.
Richard Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1521). u, w.
Henry Vernon (of Haddon and Harlaston). h.
William Mitton (of Weston-under-Lizeard). i.
Robert Hill (of Marchington). i, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
Hugh Egerton (of Wrinehill, *d.* 1505). k, l, m, n, o.
John Acton (sheriff 1467). k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s.
Richard Bagott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1475). k, l, m.
Richard Bagott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1485). r, s.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

William Basset (of Blore). k, l, m, n, o, p, q, t.
William Harpour (of Rushall). n, o, p, q, r, s, w.
John Aston (of Heywood, *d.* 1483). p, q, r, s, t.
Humphrey Stanley (of Pipe). q.

(Royal Justices.)

Richard Byngham, chiv. (Justice of the King's Bench). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Richard Chok[1] (Justice of the Common Pleas). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i.
Thomas Hethe. a, b, c, d, e.
Roger Bayle. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, w.
Thomas Urswick, chiv. (Chief Baron of the Exchequer). k, l, m, n, o, p.
Guy Fairfax (Justice of the King's Bench). k, l, m, n, o (Knight) p, q.
Humphrey Starky, chiv. (Justice of Common Pleas and Chief Baron). r, s, t, u, w.
Thomas Tremayle (Justice). r, s, t, u, w.
Gervase Clifton, chiv. (Justice). t, u, w.

HENRY VII. (1485–1509).

a=27 Sept. 1485
b=11 Nov. 1486
c=12 Feb. 1487
d=15 Dec. 1487
e=13 Feb. 1493
f=23 Ap. 1496
g=13 July, 1496
h=22 Nov. 1499
k=7 May, 1501
l=6 Dec. 1501
m=12 Jan. 1503
n=12 July, 1504
o=12 July, 1508
*=of the *quorum*.

Arthur, Prince of Wales. e, g, h, k, l.
Henry, Prince of Wales. m, n, o.
The Archbishop of Canterbury. e, g, h, l, m.
Edward, Duke of Buckingham.[1] m, n, o.
Jasper, Duke of Bedford.[1] e.
Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby.[1] a, b, c, d, e, g, h, k, l, m, n.
George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury.[1] b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
The Bishop of Lincoln. g, m, o.
The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. a, b, c, d, e, h, k, l, o.
John Sutton of Dudley, Knight (Lord Dudley). a, b, c.
Edward Sutton of Dudley (Lord Dudley). d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
John Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow). a, b, c.
Humphrey Stanley, Knight* (of Pipe). a, b, c, d, e, f, h, k, l, m.
Hugh Peshale, Knight (of Horsley). a, b, c, d.
Reginald Gray, Knight.* e.
William Houghton, Knight. h, k, l, m.
Thomas Lovell, Knight.* o.
Henry Vernon, Knight (of Haddon and Harlaston, *d.* 1515). o.
Gilbert Talbot, Knight (of Grafton, co. Worcester). o.

[1] See *D.N.B.*

John Ferrers, Knight (of Tamworth). o.
John Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1523). o.
Lewis Bagot, Knight (of Blithfield, *d.* 1534). o.
William Basset (of Blore). a, b, c, d, e, f, k, l, m, n.
Hugh Egerton (of Wrinehill). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Ralph Wolseley* (of Wolseley). b, c, d, e, f, k, l, m, n.
Rouland Stafford. o.
Richard Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1521). a, b, c, d, g, k, l, m, n, o.
George Stanley (of Elford). a, b, c, d, e, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Hugh Erdeswick (of Sandon). a, b, d, e.
Richard Lytelton* (of Pillatonhall, *j.u.*).[1] h, k, l, m, n, o.
John Gifford (of Chillington, *d.* 1556). l, m, n, o.
Nicholas Agarde* (of Dunstall). f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
John Cumberford* (of Cumberford). m, n.
William Harper* (of Rushall). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, n.
Robert Hill* (of Houndhill). a.
William Wilkes* (of Willenhall). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
Roger Prees.* c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
John Aston.[2] g.
John Blount (of Hopton and Tean, *j.u.*). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
John Bredok. e.
John Wellys* (of Hoarcross, *j.u.*). m, n, o.
Edmund Dudley.*[3] o.
Ralph Agarde* (of Foston, co. Derby). o.
Richard Selman* (of Moreton). o.
Thomas Blount (? of Burton-on-Trent).* o.

(ROYAL JUSTICES, all of the *quorum*.)

Humphrey Starkey, Knight (Chief Baron 1483, *d.* 1486). a.
William Hody, Knight (Chief Baron 1486, *d.* 1522). c, d, e, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Thomas Tremayle. a, b, c, d, e, g, h, k, l (Knight), m.
John Kingesmyll. n, o.

HENRY VIII. (1509–47).

a=8 July, 1509	e=20 July, 1522	k=28 Feb. 1532
b=5 July, 1511	f=12 Nov. 1523	l=3 Dec. 1536
c=18 Oct. 1514	g=1 Feb. 1526	m=4 July, 1538
d=16 Nov. 1520	h=16 Feb. 1531	n=8 July, 1540

Thomas (Wolsey), Cardinal, Archbishop of York. c, d, e, g.
Thomas More, Lord Chancellor.[4] h, k.
Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor. l, m, n.

[1] 2nd son of the Chief Justice.
[2] Probably of Tixall (see above).
[3] See *D.N.B.*, beheaded 1509.
[4] Beheaded 1535.

Edward (Stafford), Duke of Buckingham.[1] a, b, c, f.
Thomas (Howard), Duke of Norfolk. g, h, k, l, m, n.
Charles (Brandon), Duke of Suffolk. h, k, l, m, n.
Thomas (Grey), Marquis of Dorset. b, c, d, e, f, g.
Thomas (Boleyn),[2] Earl of Wilts. h, k.
George (Talbot), 4th Earl of Shrewsbury (*d.* 1538[3]). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m.
William FitzWilliam (Earl of Southampton, 1537). k, l, m, n.
W., Bishop of Lincoln. a, b.
G., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
R., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. l, m, n.
Edward Sutton of Dudley (Lord Dudley). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k.
William Blount (Lord Mountjoy, *d.* 1534). f, g, h, k.
Walter Devereux (Lord Ferrers). d, e, g, h, k, l, m, n.
Francis Lord Talbot (son and heir of George, Earl of Shrewsbury). k, l, m.
Henry Stafford (Lord Stafford). l, m, n.
Thomas Cromwell (Lord Cromwell).[4] m.
James Denton, clerk, Dean of Lichfield (1522–33[3]). g, h, k.
Thomas Lovell, K.G.[5] a, b, c, d, e.
Richard Wingfield, K.G.[3] f.
Gilbert Talbot, Knight (of Grafton, co. Worcester). a, b, c.
John Talbot, Knight (of Grafton). g, h, k.
Henry Vernon, Knight (of Haddon and Harlaston, *d.* 1515). a, b, c.
Walter Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1531). b, c, d, e, f, g.
George Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1559). m, n.
John Ferrers, Knight (of Tamworth, *d.* 1515). a, b.
William Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow, *d.* 1521). c.
George Gresley, Knight (of Drakelow, *d.* 1548). h, k, l (Knight).
Lewis Bagot, Knight (of Blithfield, *d.* 1534). a, b, c, h, k.
John Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1523). b.
Edward Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1568). g, k, m, n (Knight).
Edward Grey, Knight. b, c (Knight), d, e, f.
John Draycot, Knight (of Paynsley, *d.* 1523–6). d, e, f.
Philip Draycot, Knight (of Paynsley, *d.* 1559). e, f, g, h, k, l (Knight), m, n.
William Smyth, Knight (of Elford, *d.* 1526). g.
John Gifford, Knight (of Chillington, *d.* 1556). a, b, c, d, g, h, k, l, m, n.
John Harecourt, Knight (of Stanton Harecourt and Ellenhall). l, m, n.
John Dudley, Knight (afterwards Duke of Northumberland[6]). m, n.
William Basset, Knight (of Blore). d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m (Knight), n.
John Egerton (of Wrinehill, *d.* 1518). b.
William FitzWilliam.[7] b.

[1] Beheaded 1521.
[2] Father of Anne Boleyn.
[3] See *D.N.B.*
[4] Beheaded 1541.
[5] Speaker 1485–8, K.G. 1503, *d.* 1524, see *D.N.B.*
[6] See *D.N.B.*, beheaded 1553.
[7] Treasurer and Chamberlain to Cardinal Wolsey, knighted 1522, see *D.N.B.*

John Russell (afterwards 1st Earl of Bedford[1]). l, m.
Richard Litilton (of Pillatonhall, *j.u.*). a, b, c.
Edward Litilton (of Pillatonhall, *d.* 1558). h, k, l, m.
Rouland Stafford. a, b.
Richard Asteley (of Patshull). c, d, e, f, g, h.
John Vernon. d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
Walter Blount (of Blounts Hall, and of Astley, co. Worcester). e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n.
Richard Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1521). a, b, c.
Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1563). h, k, l, m, n.
Thomas Partriche (of King's Bromley). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
John Mitton (of Weston-under-Lizeard, *d.* 1532). b.
John Welles (of Hoarcross, *j.u.*). a, b, c, d, e, f.
Humphrey Welles (of Hoarcross). m, n.
John Blount (of Tean and Hopton, *j.u.*). a, b, c, d, e, f, g.
Ralph Agard (of Foston, Derby). a, b, c.
Richard Selman (of Moreton). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m.
Thomas Blount (? of Burton). a, b, c.
John Salter (of Newport, Salop). g, h, k.
Roger Wigston. l, m, n.
John Pakyngton. l, m, n.
William Whorwood.[2] h, k, l, m, n.
William Wyrley, jun. (of Handsworth, *d.* 1561). l, m, n.
Thomas Holte. l, m, n.
Thomas Fitzherbert.[3] n.
Richard Hassall. l, m, n.
James Leveson (of Lilleshull). l, m, n.
Thomas Skrymsher (of Norbury). h, k, l, m, n.
John Gravenour (of Bushbury, *j.u.*). h, k, l, m, n.
Thomas Moreton (of Engleton ?). h, k, l, m, n.
Francis Basset (brother of Sir William of Blore). n.
John Perseal (Peshall of Horsley). n.
George Bromley. h, k.

(Royal Justices.)

Robert Brudenell (Justice of Common Pleas 1509, Chief Justice 1521–31). a, b, c.
William Grevell. a, b.
Anthony Fitzherbert[4] (Serjeant-at-law). b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l.
John Neuport. c.
Lewis Pollard, Knight (Justice of Common Pleas 1514–26, *see D.N.B.*). d, e, f, g.

[1] See *D.N.B.*
[2] Attorney-General; brother of John Whorwood of Compton.
[3] Son and heir of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert.
[4] 3rd son of Ralph Fitzherbert of Norbury, knighted 1522, *d.* 1538, see *D.N.B.*

John FitzJames (Attorney-General 1519, Chief Baron 1522, Chief Justice 1526). d.
Thomas Inglefield. e, f.
John Porte, Knight (Justice of King's Bench 1525, *d.* 1541). g, h, k, l, m.
Thomas Willoughby, Serjeant-at-law. h, k.
Edward Montagu, Serjeant-at-law (Knight 1537, Chief Justice 1539, Regent 1547). m.
Edward Marvyn, Serjeant-at-law. n.
Thomas Bromley, Serjeant-at-law (Justice of King's Bench 1544, Chief Justice 1553–5). n.

After 1541 the Patent Rolls become so numerous and lengthy that the labour involved in searching them has not been undertaken. In some years there are as many as sixty rolls, each some 150 feet long. The following lists are therefore collected from various sources and must not be considered exhaustive :—

EDWARD VI. (1547–53).

Francis Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, 1st Lord Lieutenant, appointed 1547.

(Those marked thus * were of the *quorum*.)

26 May, 1547 (Patent Rolls, transcript of 1 Edward VI. in P.R.O.).

Edward (Seymour), Duke of Somerset.
* Wm. Paulet, Lord St. John.
John, Lord Russell.
John Dudley, Earl of Warwick (*postea* Duke of Northumberland, beheaded 1553).
* Richard, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.
* R., Bishop of St. Asaph.
Walter (Devereux), Lord Ferrers (Viscount Hereford, 1550).
* Henry, Lord Stafford (M.P., 1545–52, *d.* 1563).
Edward, Lord Powes.
* Sir William Paget, Knight (Lord Paget, 1547, *d.* 1563).
* Sir Robt. Townsend, Knight.
* Sir Edmund Mervon, Knight (Justice of Assise).
* Sir Wm. Porteman, Knight (Chief Justice in 1554, see *D.N.B.*).
Sir Ric. Devereux, Knight (son of Lord Ferrers, M.P.).
Sir John Gyffard, Knight (of Chillington, *d.* 1556).
Sir Wm. Bassett, Knight (of Blore).
Sir Edward Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1565).
Sir George Griffiths, Knight (of Wichnor, M.P., *d.* 1559).
Sir John Harcourt, Knight (of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt, M.P., *d.* 1565).
* Sir John Pakyngton, Knight (Serjeant-at-law see *D.N.B.*).
* Sir Thos. Fitzherbert, Knight (of Norbury, Co. Derby, M.P.).
Sir Thos. Gyfford, Knight (heir of Chillington, M.P., *d.* 1560).

Sir Wm. Sneyde, Knight (of Keele,[1] *d.* 1571).
* David Brooke, Serjeant-at-law (Chief Baron, 1553, see *D.N.B.*).
Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1563).
Wm. Wyrley, junior.
Fras. Meverell (of Throwley, *d.* 1565).
* John Grosvenor (of Bushbury).
* John Fletewood (of Calwich Priory).
* Humphrey Welles (of Hoarcross, M.P.).
Thos. Skrymsher (of Norbury).
Thos. Chetwyn.
John Persill (Peshall).
Hugh Erdswick (of Sandon).
Richard Bedyll (Biddulph of Biddulph, *d.* 1551).
Brian Fowler (of St. Thomas, Stafford, *d.* 1590).
* Thomas Moorton (of Engleton).
John Otleley (of Pichford, co. Salop).
John Cuney (Coyney of Weston Coyney).

PHILIP AND MARY (1553–8).

(Those marked thus * were of the *quorum*.)

18 February, 1554 (*penes* Walter N. Landor, Esq.).

* Fras., 5th Earl of Shrewsbury[2] (*d.* 1560).
* Walter (Devereux), Viscount Hereford (*d.* 1558).
* The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.
* Henry, Lord Stafford[2] (*d.* 1563).
* William, Lord Paget[2] (*d.* 1563).
* Sir William Portman, Knight (Chief Justice).
* John Whiddow,[2] a Justice of the Common Pleas.
Sir Edward Asshton,[2] Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1565).
Sir Philip Draycote, Knight (of Paynsley, M.P., *d.* 1559).
Sir Geo. Griffeth, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1559).
Sir John Harecourt Knight (of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt).
* Sir Thos. Fitzherbert, Knight (of Norbury).
Sir William Snede, Knight (of Keele, *d.* 1571).
Sir Edward Littleton, Knight (of Pillatonhall, M.P., *d.* 1558).
William Gresley (of Drakelow, *d.* 1573).
William Wirley, junior.
Fras. Meverell (of Throwley, M.P., *d.* 1565).
* Humphrey Welles (of Hoarcross).
* Ralph Aderley (of Coton-under-Needwood, *d.* 1595).

[1] Sneyd bought Keele in 1544.

[2] His name occurs in a defective list of Staffordshire J.P.'s of 1558–9, in Lansdown MSS. 1218, at the British Museum.

Thos. Chetwynd.
Edmund James (Steward of Himley).
John Persall (Peshall).
Humphrey Cotton (of Bold in Blithfield, *d.* 1583).
Brian Fowler (of St. Thomas', Stafford, M.P., *d.* 1590).
* Thos. Moreton (of Engleton).
* John Oteley (of Pichford, co. Salop).
John Cuney (Coyney of Weston Coyney).

ELIZABETH (1558–1603).

(Those marked thus * were of the *quorum*.)

1 June, 1564 (Patent Rolls, *penes* W. N. Landor, Esq.).

* Nicholas Bacon, Knight, Lord Keeper[1] (1559–79).
* William (Paulet), Marquis of Winchester[1] (see *D.N.B.*).
* Henry (FitzAlan), Earl of Arundel[1] (see *D.N.B.*)
* George (Talbot), 6th Earl of Shrewsbury (*d.* 1590).
* Walter (Devereux), 2nd Viscount Hereford (Earl of Essex 1572, *d.* 1576).
* Thos., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.
* George (Touchet), Lord Audley (last Audley on the Comm., *d.* 1617).
* Henry, Lord Stafford[1] [2](*d.* 1563).
* Edward (Sutton), Lord Dudley[1] (sucd. 1553, *d.* 1586).
* Henry, Lord Paget of Baudesert.
* Sir Edward Saunders, Knight[1] (Chief Baron of the Exchequer 1558, *d.* 1576).
* Thos. Carns, Serjeant-at-law.
* Sir Edward Ashton, Knight[1] (of Tixall, *d.* 1568).
* Sir William Snede, Knight (of Keele, *d.* 1571).
* Sir George Blounte, Knight (of Hopton, Tean, and Kinlet, co. Salop).
Sir William Gressley, Knight (of Drakelow, *d.* 1573).
Sir Ralph Bagnall, Knight (of Dieulacres, M.P.).
* Humphrey Welles (of Hoarcross).
Simon Harcourte (of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt, M.P.).
* Henry Vernon (of Sudbury, M.P., *d.* 1569).
Ralph Oker of Oker (Oakover, *d.* 1571).
Thos. Wyrley (of Handsworth).
Edmund James (Steward of Himley).
* Ralph Adderley (of Coton-under-Needwood, *d.* 1595).
Brian Fowler (of St. Thomas', Stafford).
John Leweston (Leveson of Wolverhampton, *d.* 1575).
William Robynson (of Drayton Basset).

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[1] His name occurs as a Staffordshire J.P. in a defective list of 1558–9 in Lansdown MSS. 1218, at the British Museum.

[2] Died 1563, according to *D.N.B.*

a=1577 (*S.P. Dom.*, Eliz., 121).
b=1580 (*S.P. Dom.*, Eliz., 145).
c=1582 (Lansd. MSS. 35, B.M.).
d=*c.* 1584 (Lansd. MSS. 737, f. 153).
e=..... 1585 (Harl. MSS. 474).
f[1]=..... 1592 (Lansd. MSS. 1218, f. 1343).
g=10 July, 1595 (P.R., 1453).
h=10 July, 1596 (P.R., 1468).

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knight, Lord Keeper (*d.* 1579). a.
Sir Thos. Bromley, Knight, Lord Chancellor (*d.* 1587). b, c, d, e.
Sir John Pickering, Knight, Lord Keeper. g.
Sir Thos. Egerton, Knight, Lord Keeper (*d.* 1617). h.
William (Cecil), Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer (*d.* 1598). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
George (Talbot), Earl of Shrewsbury (*d.* 1590). a, b, c, d, e.
Gilbert (Talbot), Earl of Shrewsbury (*d.* 1616). g. h.
Robert (Dudley), Earl of Leicester (*d.* 1588). d, e.
Robert (Devereux), Earl of Essex (beheaded 1601). f, g, h.
Thomas, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. a.
William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. c, d, e, f, g, h.
Edward, Lord Stafford (*d.* 1603). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Edward, Lord Dudley (*d.* 1586). a, b, c, d, e.
Edward, Lord Dudley (*d.* 1643). g, h.
Thomas, Lord Paget of Bewdesert (Catholic, attainted 1581, fled abroad 1583, *d.* 1590). a, b.
Sir Jas. Croft (see *D.N.B.*, Justice). b, c, d, e.
Sir Wm. Ayloff (Justice of the Queen's Bench 1579, see *D.N.B.*). b, c, d, e.
Sir Fras. Windham (Justice of the Common Pleas, see *D.N.B.*). b, c, d, e.
Sir Wm. Peryam (Justice of the Common Pleas 1581, *d.* 1604). g, h.
Matthew Ewens, Baron of the Exchequer. g, h.
Sir Gilbert Gerrard (of Gerrard's Bromley, Attorney-General 1559, knighted 1579, and Master of the Rolls 1581, *d.* 1593). a, b, c, d, e, f.
Sir John Littleton, Knight (of Frankley, *d.* 1590). d, e.
Sir Walter Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1589). a, b, c, d, e, f.
Sir Ralph Bagnall, Knight (of Dieulacres Abbey). a, b.
Sir George Blount, Knight (of Hopton, Tean, and Kinlet). a, b.
Sir Ralph Egerton, Knight (of Wrimehill, *d.* 1595–7). a, b, c, d, e.
Sir Walter Leveson, Knight (of Trentham, knighted 1587, M.P., *d.* 1602). a, b, c, d, e.
Sir George Devereux, Knight (cousin of the Earl of Essex). g, h.
Sir John Bowes, Knight (of Elford, M.P., *d.* 1608). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Sir Edward Littleton, Knight (of Pillaton, *d.*? 1611). d, e, (knighted) g, h.
Sir Edward Aston, Knight (of Tixall, *d.* 1597). c, d, e, (knighted) g, h.
Sir Christopher Blount, Knight (M.P., stepfather of the Earl of Essex, beheaded 1601). g, h.
Sir Humphrey Ferrers, Knight (of Walton and Tamworth, *d.* 1607). b, c, d, e, (knighted) g, h.

[1] The list in the Lansdown MSS. 1218 is incomplete, and only includes the names of a few important persons.

Sir Thos. Gerrard, Knight (of Gerrard's Bromley, M.P., *d.* 1618). g, h.
Thomas Trentham (of Rocester Abbey, M.P., *d.* 1587). a, b, c, d, e.
Ralph Snede (of Keele, *d.* 1615). d, e, g, h.
John Wortsley (*sic*) (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1576). a.[1]
Thomas Gresley (of Drakelow, *b.* 1552, *d.* 1610). d, e, g, h.
Henry Townsend, Justice of Chester. g, h.
George Bullein, Dean of Lichfield (*d.* 1603). h.
William Bassett (of Blore, M.P.). c, d, e.
Walter Harcourt (of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt, M.P.). d.
Ralph Adderley[1] (of Coton-under-Needwood, *d.* 1595). a, b, c, d, e, g, h.
John Gifford (of Chillington, *d.* 1613). a.
John Chetwind (of Ingestre, *d.* 1592). c, d, e.
Robert Stamford (of Perry Hall, *d.* 1606–7). a, b, c, d, e, g.
Edward Leigh (of Rushall, M.P., *d.* 1617). g, h.
Richard Baggott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1597). a, b, c, d, e, g, h.
Richard Leveson (of Trentham). g, h.
John Grey (M.P. 1586–7). b, c, d.
Thos. Whorwood (of Compton, M.P. 1572–83, *d. c.* 1617). a, b, g, h.
Thomas Lane (of Bentley, *d.* 1589). c, d, e.
Henry Griffith (of Wichnor, *d.* 1604). e, g, h.
Thomas Wirley (of Handsworth). a, b, c, d, e.
John Wirley (of Hampstead, *d.* 1595). g, h.
Walter Chetwynd (of Ingestre, *d.* 1637). h.
Philip Oker (of Okeover, *d.* 1604). a, b, c, d, e, g, h.
Fras. Trentham (of Rocester Abbey, M.P. 1610–11). h.
Fras. Bedolph (of Biddulph, *d.* 1598). a, b, c.
Thomas Ruddierd (of Rudyard, *d.* 1626). c, d, e.
Edmund James (Steward of Himley). a, b, c, d, e.
Richard Crompton (of Checkley). a, b, c, d, e.
Thomas Waringes. a, b, c, d, e.
John Bowyer (*d.* 1605, son and heir of Wm. Bowyer of Knypersley). h.
Thomas Playford. c.
William Madder. c, d, e.

From 1595–1603, and from 1617–1648, the appointments of Justices of the Peace can be obtained from the *Crown Office Docket Books* at the P.R.O. After 1648 only a few of the Justices appointed can be traced from this source. All those there mentioned are set out as follows :—

[1] In some cases names were continued on the Commission after death, through ignorance. The date of Adderley's death is taken from the 1614 Visitation.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
12 Mar. 1596	...	Fras. Trentham (of Rocester, M.P.).
16 Feb. 1597	...	John Bowyer (of Knypersley, *d.* 1605).
9 June, 1597	...	Zacchary Babington, doctor of law (Chancellor to the Bishop, *d.* 1614).
		Wm Chetwinde (of Ingestre, *d.* 1612).
		Walter Bagott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1622).
		Wm. Crompton (of Stone Abbey, dead in 1614).
26 Nov. 1597	...	Roger Fowke (of Brewode).
2 Aug. 1598	...	Mr. Justice Clench.
13 Nov. 1598	...	Wm. Skevington (of Fisherwick, *cr.* Baronet 1622, *d.* 1635).
29 June, 1599	...	Sir John Egerton, Knight.
15 Feb. 1600	...	Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1630).
22 Dec. 1600	...	Wm. Bassett (of Blore).
5 Mar. 1601	...	Sir Thos. Gerrard (of Gerrard's Bromley) to be *Custos Rotulorum*. (*Cr.* Lord Gerard, 1603.)
		Leave out Sir George Devereux, and Sir Christopher Blount.[1]
17 Mar. 1601	....	Anthony Kynnersley (of Loxley, *d.* 1622).
		Wm. Whorwood (of Sandwell, West Bromwich, *d.* 1614).
		Leaving out Sir Edw. Littleton.
28 May, 1601	...	Robert Aston (of Parkhall near Leigh, second son to Sir Edward).
10 June, 1601	...	Hump. Wyrley (of Hampstead).
6 July, 1601	...	Mr. Justice Walmisley.
22 June, 1602	...	Robt. Stanford (of Perry Hall, M.P., Knight, *d.* 1606–7).
		Walter Leveson (of Wolverhampton, *d. c.* 1613).
28 June, 1602	...	Christopher Yelverton (Justice of Assise), and restoring Sir Edward Littleton, Knight.

JAMES I. (1603–25).

a = 18 June, 1603 (P.R., 1620).
b = 27 Mar. 1604 (P.R., 1662).
c = ...1605 (P.R., 16).
d = ...1606 (P.R., 1698).
e = ...1607 (P.R., 17).
f = 20 May, 1608 (*S.P. Dom.*, Jas. I.).[2]
g = 30 Mar. 1609 (P.R., 1822).
h = 12 Mar. 1611 (P.R., 1897).
k = 10 Jan. 1612 (P.R., 1898).
l = ... 1613 (P.R., 1988).
m = ... 1614 (*S.C.*, V, ii, 341).
n = 10 Feb. 1615 (P.R., 2047).
o = 27 Jan. 1616 (P.R., 2076).
p = 1 Mar. 1624 (P.R., 2310).

Sir Thos. Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Keeper (*d.* 1617). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.

[1] Devereux was a cousin and Blount stepfather of Robert, Earl of Essex, in whose place doubtless Gerrard was made Lord Lieutenant.

[2] *Penes*, W. N. Landor, Esq.

John, Bishop of Lincoln, Lord Keeper. p.

Thos. (Sackville), Lord Buckhurst, Lord Treasurer (Earl of Dorset, 1604, *d.* 1608). a, b, c, d, e.

Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, Lord Treasurer. f, g, h, k.

Lionel (Cranfield), Earl of Middlesex, Lord Treasurer (*d.* 1645). p.

Thos. (Howard), Earl of Suffolk, Lord Treasurer (*d.* 1626). l, n, o.

Henry (Montagu), Viscount Mandeville, President of the Council (*cr.* Earl of Manchester, 1626). p.

Henry (Howard), Earl of Northampton, Privy Seal (*d.* 1614). f, g, h, k.

Edward (Somerset), Earl of Worcester, Privy Seal (*d.* 1628). o, p.

Gilb. Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury (*d.* 1616). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.

Robert Devereux, (3rd) Earl of Essex (of Chartley, *b.* 1591, *d.* 1646). l, m, n, o,[1] p.

William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. a, b, c, d, e, f.

Richard, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. g, k.

Thos., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Appointed 25 June, 1619. p.

Edward, Lord Stafford (*d.* 1603). a.

Edward, Lord Dudley (*d.* 1643). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.

Thomas, Lord Cromwell (*cr.* Viscount Lecale 1624, Earl of Ardglass 1645, *d.* 1653). Appointed 16 Feb., 1620. p.

William, Lord Pagett (of Beaudesert, Protestant, *d.* 1629). b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.

Thomas, Lord Gerrard (of Gerrard's Bromley, *d.* 1618). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.

Gilbert, Lord Gerrard. Appointed 17 Feb., 1623.[3]

Richard, Lord Sea and Seale (*d.* 1613). g, k.

Sir Xtopher Yelverton, Knight, Justice of Assise. a, b, c, d, e, g, h, k.

Sir Edward Philipps, Knight, Justice of Assise. a.

Sir David Williams, Knight, Justice of Assise. b, c, d, e, h, k.

Sir John Croke, Knight, Justice of Assise. g, l, m, n, o.

Sir John Dodridge, Knight, Justice of Assise. l, m, n.

Sir Peter Warburton, Knight, Justice of Assise. o.

Sir Humphrey Winche, Knight, Justice of Assise. p.

Sir Wm. Jones, Knight, Justice of Assise. p.

Serjt. Davies, Justice of Assise. Appointed 8 July, 1620.

Sir Edward Bromley, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer. g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.

Henry Howard, arm.[2] l, m, n, o.

Sir Walter Aston, Knight and Baronet (of Tixall, Lord Aston, 1628, *d.* 1639). b, c, d, e, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.

Sir Geo. Gresley, Baronet (of Drakelow, Baronet 1611, M.P., *d.* 1651). e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.

Sir John Bowes, Knight (of Elford, *d.* 1609). a, b, c, d, e, f.

[1] Appointed *Custos Rotulorum*, 17 Oct., 1617.

[2] Younger son of the Earl of Suffolk. He was the first husband of Elizabeth Basset, heiress of Blore and Grendon.

[3] According to G.E.C. he died in 1622 (!), will proved 1624.

Sir Edward Littleton, Knight (of Pillaton, *d.* 1611). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
Sir Humphrey Ferrers, Knight (of Tamworth, *d.* 1607). a, b, c, d.
Sir Richard Leveson, Knight (of Trentham, *d.* 16). a, b.
Sir John Leveson, Knight (of Trentham, *d.* 16). g, h, k, l, m, n.
Sir John Egerton, Knight (of Wrimehill, M.P.). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, m.
Sir Thos. Crompton, Knight (of Stone). f.
Sir Simon Weston, Knight (of St. John's, M.P.). d, e, f, g, h, k, l, n, o, p.
Sir Henry Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, knighted 1603, *d.* 1604). a.
Sir Henry Griffith, Knight (of Wichnor, *d.* 1660). b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k.
Sir Edward Littleton, junior, Knight (of Pillaton, M.P., *d.* 1629). b, c, d, e, f, h, k, m, o, p.
Sir Edward Leigh, Knight (of Rushall, knighted 1603, *d.* 1617). a, b, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Sir Thomas Whorwood, Knight (of Compton, knighted 1603, *d. c.* 1617). a, b, c, d.
Sir Robert Stamford, Knight (of Perry Hall, knighted 1603, *d.* 1606–7). a, b, d.
Sir Gilbert Wakering, Knight. e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Sir John Bowyer, Knight (of Knypersley, knighted 1603, *d.* 1605). a, b.
Sir William Bowyer, Knight (of Knypersley, M.P., *d.* 1641). l, m, n, o, (knighted) p.
Sir Walter Chetwynd, Knight (of Reule and later of Ingestre, M.P., *d.* 1639). b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.
Sir William Chetwynd, Knight (of Ingestre, knighted 1603, *d.* 1612 *s.p.*). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k.
Sir John Offley, Knight (of Madeley, M.P., *d.* 1646). p.
Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Knight (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1633). o, (knighted) p.
Sir Walter Leveson, Knight (of Wolverhampton, knighted 1603, *d.* 1613). a, b.
Sir William Whorwood, Knight (of Sandwell Priory, knighted 1603, *d.* 1614). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k.
Sir William Powell, Knight (knighted 1616–23). l, m, n, o, (knighted) p.
Sir Thomas Leigh, Knight. p. Appointed 20 June, 1623.
Sir Thomas Skrimshere, Knight (of Aqualate, knighted 1616–23, *d.* 16). Appointed 27 Jan., 1616, o, (knighted) p.
Sir Henry Townsend, Knight, Justice of Chester. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
William Tooker, Dean of Lichfield. b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Zacchary Babington, Doctor of Laws. a, g, k.
Sir Robert Masters, Knight, Doctor of Laws. m, n, o, p.
Ralph Sneade (of Keele, *d.* 1615). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Ralph Sneade, junior (of Keele, *d.* 1643). Appointed 26 June, 1615, o, p.
Robert Meverel (last Meverel of Throwley, *d.* 1626). c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.
Francis Trentham (of Rocester, M.P.).[1] a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, removed 26 June, 1615.
Walter Bagott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1623). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.

[1] He was still living in 1619.

Harvey Bagott (of Blithfield, *d.* 1660). Appointed 30 Dec. 1623, p.
Philip Okeover (of Okeover, *d.* 1604). a.
Henry Leigh (of Rushall, *d.* 1630). Appointed 25 Aug., 1619, p.
Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1630). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k.
James Skrimshere (of Norbury). g, k, l, m, n, o.
John Skrimshere (of Orslow). Appointed 11 July, 1623, p.
William Crompton of Stone. a.
Thomas Crompton . c, d, e.
Anthony Kinnersley (of Loxley, *d.* 1622). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Fras. Kinnersley (of Loxley, *d.* 1634). Appointed 28 May, 1623, p.
Roger Fowke of Breewood. a, b, c, d, e, f.
William Skevington (of Fisherwick, *d.* 1635). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.
Robert Aston (second son of Sir Edward). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.
Richard Weston (of Rugeley, *postea* a Baron of the Exchequer, M.P. for Bodmin and Stafford, *d.* 1656). Appointed 15 July, 1618, p.
Anthony Dyott (of Lichfield, barrister, M.P.). g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Humphrey Wirley (of Hampstead). a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o, p.
Thomas Laughton (? Lawton of Lawton). b.
Thomas Rudyard (of Rudyard, *d.* 1626). b, c, d, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, o.
Thomas Crompton (of Stone, M.P., *d.* 1645). m, n, o, p.
Thomas Crompton of Bridgeford. Appointed 26 July, 1623, p.
Peter Broughton. Appointed 23 Feb. 1624, p.
Edward Mainwaring (of Whitmore, *d.* 1647). Appointed 26 June, 1615, o, p.
John Fowke (of Brewood). k, l, m, n, o, p.
Ralph Ashenhurst (of Ashenhurst). p.
Arthur Radcliffe. e, f, k, l, m.
Thomas Whitbie (of Heywood). Appointed 17 July, 1617, ? if dead before p.
Thomas Parker (of Parwich, lawyer, sheriff 1625). Appointed 18 May, 1620, ? if dead before p.

CHARLES I. (1625–49).

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
On accession	...	Lord Lieutenancy renewed to Robt. (Devereux), Earl of Essex.
9 July, 1625	...	Sir Thos. Whorwood, Knight[1] (of Sandwell and Holton, co. Oxon, *j.u.*, *d.* 1634).
11 Aug. 1625	...	John Burgesse, doctor of laws.
3 Mar. 1626	...	Justice Doderidge, Justice of Assise.

[1] "Very ridiculous for his many base acts and penury," *Shaw*, II, 119.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
26 May, 1626	...	For restoring Edw. Seabright (of Prestwood, knighted 1627).
5 June, 1626	...	Wm. (Courtney), Earl of Devon.
17 June, 1627	...	Robt. (Carey), Earl of Monmouth, to be Lord Lieutenant (*d.* 1639).
19 Dec. 1628	...	For restoring Robt., Earl of Essex, to be *Custos Rotulorum*, and adding Thos. (Cromwell), Viscount Lecale,[1] to the Commission.
14 Aug. 1629	...	For restoring Sir Thos. Skrymshire (of Aqualate) to his former place.
1 July, 1631	...	Chas. Twisden, doctor of laws.
		Edw. Mitton (of Weston-under-Lizeard, *d.* 1638).
		Thomas Milward (Chief Justice of Chester).
26 July, 1632	...	For leaving out Sir John Offley, Knight (of Madeley, *d.* 1646).
16 Mar. 1633	...	The Bishop of Lichfield.
8 July, 1634	...	Sir Edw. Littleton, Baronet.
		Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, Baronet 1642, *d.* 1659).
		Ric. Dyott (of Lichfield, P.C., M.P. 1620–40, *d.* 1659).
		John Whorwood (of Compton, Stourton, and Dunsley).
26 June, 1635	...	Wm., Lord Pagett (*d.* 1678).
		Matheu Moreton (of Engleton, *b.* 1590, *d. c.* 1663).
7 Jan. 1636	...	Sir Robt. Wolseley, Baronet (of Wolseley, *d.* 1646).
20 Feb. 1636	...	John Horwood (again).
„ 1637	...	George Digby (of Sandon, died after 1663).
„ 1638	...	Sir Wm. Howard, K.B. (for Salop and Gloster also).
19 Ap. 1638	...	Humphrey Okeover (of Okeover, *b.* 1609, *d.* 1639).
19 July, 1639	...	Baron (Sir Thos.) Trevor, Justice of Assise.[2]
3 Mar. 1640	...	Thos. Ashton (barrister, youngest brother of Sir Walter Aston).

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23 Oct. 1639. (Complete List, Pat. Rolls, 2858, 15 Chas. I.)

* of the *quorum*.

* Sir John Finch, Knight,[3] Lord Keeper.[4]
* Wm., Bishop of London, Lord Treasurer.[4]
* Hy. (Montagu), Earl of Manchester, Privy Seal (*d.* 1642).
* Robt. (Devereux), Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant.

[1] He had married Elizabeth Meverell, heiress of Throwley, and died 1653.
[2] He gave judgment against Hampden and was impeached in 1641.
[3] He was not made Lord Keeper till Jan., 1640, according to the *D.N.B.*
[4] We have no note of the date of the appointment of those marked thus.

* Wm. (Cavendish), Earl of Newcastle.[1]
* Thos. Cromwell, Viscount Lecale.
* Robt., Bishop of Lichfield.
* Edw., Lord Dudley.
* Wm., Lord Pagett.
* Sir Wm. Jones, Knight, Justice of Common Pleas.[2]
* Sir Thos. Trevor, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer.
* Sir Ric. Weston, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer.
* Sir Thos. Milward, Knight, Justice of Chester.
* Sir Wm. Howard, K.B.
* Sir Edw. Seabright, Knight and Baronet (of Prestwood).
* Sir Harvey Bagott, Baronet (M.P., Cavalier 1641–3, *d.* 1660).
* Sir Edw. Littleton, Baronet (M.P., Cavalier 1640, 1640–3).
* Sir Robt. Wolseley, Baronet (of Wolseley, *d.* 1646).
* Sir Ric. Leveson, Knight[2] (of Trentham, Cavalier, M.P. 1640–2).
* Sir Ric. Shilton, Knight, King's Counsel[2] (*postea* Solicitor-General *d.* 1647).
* Sir Wm. Bowyer, Knight (of Knypersley, M.P. 1640, 1640–1, *d.* 1641).
* Sir Ric. Dyott, Knight, King's Counsel (of Lichfield, M.P., *d.* 1659).
* Chas. Twisden, doctor of laws.
* Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1659).

George Digby, King's Knight in Ordinary (of Sandon).

* Ralph Sneyde, arm. (of Keele, *d.* 1643).
* Humphrey Okeover (of Okeover, *d.* 1639).
* John Whorwood (of Dunsley and Compton).

Thos. Aston (brother of Lord Aston).

Humphrey Wirley (of Hampstead, *d.* 1639–41).

* Thos. Crompton (of Stone, Roundhead Colonel, *d.* 1645).

Edw. Mainwaring (of Whitmore, Roundhead, *d.* 1647).

* Randle Ashenhurst (of Ashenhurst, Roundhead, *d.* after 1662).

Mathew Moreton (of Engleton, Roundhead, *d. c.* 1664).

APPOINTMENTS.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
4 July, 1640	...	Sir Wm. Brereton, Baronet (M.P. for Cheshire, Parl. Genl., *d.* 1661)
9 Mar. 1641	...	Sir Edw. Littleton, Knight and Baronet.
		Ric. Pyott (of Streethay, *d.* 1667).
		George Cradock (of Caverswall, barrister, *d.* 1643).

[1] He had married, c. 1618, Elizabeth da. and heiress of Basset of Blore and Grendon.

[2] We have no note of the date of the appointment of those marked thus.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
		Thos. Lane (of King's Bromley, *d.* 1660).
		George Parker (of Parkhall, solicitor, *d.* 1675, aged 84).
		Mr. Justice (Sir Robert) Heath, Justice of Assise.[1]
11 June, 1641	...	Wm. Cotton (of Crakemarsh, *d.* 1641).
12 Aug. 1641	...	Baron Hendon, Justice of Assise.
		Edw. Legh (of Rushall, Roundhead, M.P., 1645–8, *d.* 1671).
		Alex. Wightwicke (of Wightwick, barrister, *d.* 1660).
24 May, 1642	...	John Agard (Sheriff 1640–1).
6 Aug. 1642[2]	...	Sir Edw. Littleton, Baronet to be *Custos Rotulorum vice* Robt., Earl of Essex, removed.
		The following are placed :—
		The Duke of Richmond and Lenox.
		The Earl of Arundel and Surrey.
		(Thomas Savile) Viscount Savile.
		Viscount Falkland.
		Sir Peter Wiche (Comptroller of the Household, *d.* 1643).
		Sir Edw. Nicholas (Secretary of State).
		Sir John Skeffington, Knight and Baronet (of Fisherwick, Visct. Massarene).
		Sir Hy. Griffith, Baronet (of Wichnor, *d.* 1660).
		Walter Littleton, Doctor of Laws (Chancellor of Lichfield).
		Thos. Brogghton (of Broughton, *d.* 1648).
		Roger Hurt (of Casterne, living, aged 71, in 1663).
		In place of the following, removed :—
		Robt., Earl of Essex.
		Sir Wm. Brereton, Baronet.
		Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, Baronet 1642, *d.* 1659).
		Edw. Leigh (Parliamentary Colonel).
		Ric. Pyott (of Streethay).
		Edw. Mainwaring (of Whitmore, Sheriff 1645–6, *d.* 1647).
		Alex. Wightwicke (of Wightwick).
		Matheu Moreton (of Engleton).
26 Ap. 1644	...	Humble, Lord Ward (*d.* 1670) added.
		And removed—
		Thos. Crompton (of Stone).
		And
		Roger Hurt (of Casterne).

[1] Impeached by Parliament, 1645, died at Calais, 1649.

[2] These appointments were made from York, when the King took up arms.

The *Crown Office Docket Book*, Vol. V, mentions a complete new commission issued on 12th August, 1645, two months after Naseby Field, but whether this was by the King or, more probably, by the Parliament I cannot say, for I cannot find any trace of the names. No doubt, however, the following appointments were made at the instance of the Parliament :—

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
13 Nov. 1645	...	Sir Wm. Brereton, Baronet.
		Sir Ric. Skeffington, Knight (M.P. 1646–7, Roundhead, *d.* 1647).
		Edw. Broughton (of Longdon, living, aged 54, in 1664).
		Leicester Barbour (Captain Barbour of Tamworth, *b. c.* 1613, *d.* 1691).
		Henry Stone (Captain Stone of Walsall).[1]
		Ric. Houghton.
		John Swinfen (M.P. for Stafford, 1645–8).
		Wm. Jollye[2] (of Leek, Sheriff 1650–1, *d.* 1669).
22 Mar. 1646	...	Alex. Whitwick (of Wightwick, *d.* 1658).

Then, under date 26th April, 1647, Harwood gives us a complete list of the Justices of that date. It includes all those appointed in 1645. It includes also all those added, according to the *Crown Office Docket Book*, Vol. VI, on 20th April, 1647. Evidently it was a new commission issued to place these.

The Commission of the Peace on 26th April, 1647, as given by Harwood (Harwood's *Erdeswick*, p. xviii) :—

Edw. (Montagu), Earl of Manchester to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
Henry (Grey), Earl of Kent (*d.* 1651).
Wm. Lenthall, the Speaker.
Edw. Atkins, Chief Baron of the Exchequer (see *D.N.B.*).
John Wilde, Serjeant-at-law (M.P. for Worcestershire, see *D.N.B.*).
Oliver St. John, Solicitor-General.[3]
Sir Wm. Brereton, Baronet.
Sir Ric. Skeffington, Knight (M.P. 1646–7, *d.* 1647).
Sam. Browne (M.P. for Clifton, co. Devon, Serjeant-at-law, 1648).
Edmund Prideaux (Attorney-General, 1649–59, M.P. for Lyme Regis).

[1] Brother-in-law to Colonel Simon Rugeley of Shenstone.
[2] Made £80,000 in the wool trade.
[3] He sided with the Army against Parliament in 1647.

John Bowyer[4] (of Knypersley, Colonel, *b.* 1623, M.P. 1646–60, 1679–81).
Michael Noble (Town Clerk of Lichfield, *d.* 1648, M.P. for Lichfield 1640–48).
Simon Rugeley[4] (of Shenston and Callengwood, Sheriff 1643–4,[4] *d.* 1665).
Edward Leigh[4] (imprisoned by the Army, 1648).
George Bowes[4] (of Elford, *b.* 1620, *d.* 1656, barrister, Parliamentary Colonel).
Thos. Crompton[4] (of Stone, Colonel, M.P. 1647–59, living 1663).
Mathew Moreton (of Engleton, *b.* 1590, living 1663).
Thos. Kinnersley (of Badger and of Loxley, *b.* 1604, living 1663).
Henry Goreing of Kinston.[1]
John Chettwood of Oakley (M.P. in Barebone's Parliament, *b.* 1598, living 1663).
Thos. Parks of Willingsworth (*d.* 1660).
Alex. Wightwick of Wightwick.
Ric. Flyer of Hintes (Barrister-at-law, *b.* 1603, *d.* 1679).
Edward Broughton of Longdon.
John Whorwood of Stourton (sold Compton, 1650, to Thos. Foley).
Ric. Pyott of Strethay.
Leicester Barbour[4] (of Tamworth).
Henry Stone of Walsall[4] (living 1679).
Ric. Houghton.
John Swinfen (of Swinfen, M.P., imprisoned by the Army, 1648, see *D.N.B.*).
Wm. Jollye (of Leek, *d.* 1669, aged 85).
Michael Biddulph of Elmhurst (M.P. Lichfield 1646–8, *d.* 1658, aged 80).
Edward Mainwaring, junior (of Whitmore, 1647, M.P. Newcastle, 1661–75, *d.* 1674–5).
Roger Hurt (of Casterne).
Anthony Rudyard (of Dieulacres Abbey).[2]
Philip Jackson[4] (of Stanshope, living 1664).
Samuel Terricke (of Clayton, M.P. for Newcastle 1645–8, 1660).[3]

COMMONWEALTH (1649-60).

Another Commission of the Peace was issued on 9th March, 1649. This, too, I have been unable to find, but on 19th June, 1649, the following were included in the Commission, although many of their names appear in the 1647 Commission already :—

[1] Henry Goring of Kingston was still alive and in the service of Parliament in 1645 (see *S.C.*, V, ii, 153, and Shaw, *Staffs.*, I, 69).
[2] Uncle of the then squire of Rudyard, then aged 19.
[3] Formerly a merchant in London.
[4] Roundhead Colonels.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
19 June, 1649	...	Sir John Wirley, Knight (of Hampstead, knighted 1641, *d.* 1687).
		Edward Villiers (of Hambury).[1]
		Philip Jackson (of Stanshope).
		John Shilton (of West Bromwich).[2]
		Daniel Watson (Captain Watson of Burton-on-Trent, barrister-at-law, M.P. Lichfield, 1659).
		Wm. Jolley (of Leek).
		Edward Eardley.
		Fras. Cumberford (Colonel, uncle of Robt. C. of Comberford).
		John Whitehalgh (of Parkhall in Leigh, junior, *d.* 1684, aged 61).
		Edward Brett (of Dimsdale, *d.* 1659).
		Edmond Downes.
		James Wood (of Uttoxeter, son-in-law of Ric. Pyott of Streethay).
		Anthony Rudyard (of Deulacres Abbey).
		Thos. Adshead (of Milwich, son-in-law of Roger Hurt of Casterne).
5 Mar. 1650	...	Omit Wm. Turton (of West Bromwich), and Edward Villiers, and add—
		Edward Ashenhurst (Colonel, of Walton Grange, 2nd brother of Colonel Randle A. of Ashenhurst).
23 July, 1650	...	Thos. Bradley (of Bagridge Wood in Sedgley).
		George Brindley (of Kinver).
2 Dec. 1650	...	Wm. Littleton.
12 Mar. 1651	...	Wm. Normansell (of Wolverhampton).
1 May, 1651	...	Thos. Harrison (Major-General, of Newcastle).
		Thos. Whitgrave[3] (knighted 1655, of Burton by Stafford, M.P. 1654–9).
		Henry Fisher
		and also nominating to the *quorum*, Henry Danvers.[4]
		Fras. Comberford, and Thos. Adshead.
9 Mar. 1652	...	Simon Rugeley (of Shenstone,[5] Colonel, *d.* 1665), placed,
		and John Shilton (of West Bromwich, omitted).
29 July, 1652	...	and therefore at intervals of 6 months, various Justices of Assise are placed on the commission.
30 Sept. 1653	...	Sir Chas. Wolseley, Baronet (of Wolseley, Roundhead, see *D.N.B.*).

[1] He was the father-in-law of Captain Daniel Watson, and was aged 88 in 1663.

[2] He had married a daughter of Richard Knightley of Fawsley, the Puritan.

[3] Brother-in-law of Colonel Bowyer.

[4] Colonel Danvers, Governor of Stafford, fifth monarchy man. "Well beloved among the people, being noted for one who would not take bribes."

[5] Brother-in-law of Captain Stone of Walsall.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
		Thos. Sanders (of Barton-under-Needwood).
		Nathaniel Barton.
		William Bagott (younger brother of Sir Harvey, *b.* 1605).
		John Yong (of Charnes, Roundhead Captain).
		Zacchary Babbington (of Curborough, *d.* 1688).
		Timothy Edge (of Horton, *d.* 1683).
		Thos. Bagnall (of Newcastle, Town Clerk).
		Thos. Minors of Lichfield (Mercer of and M.P. for Lichfield 1654-60, *d.* 1677).[1]
		Thos. Burslem (of Burslem)
		and "diverse omitted."
		Also Thos. Harrison nominated *Custos Rotulorum*.[2]
13 Oct. 1653	...	Wm. Cocklaugh of Burslem, "instead of Thos. Burslem which was mistaken."[3]
7 Dec. 1653	...	Omitted from the commission—
		Ric. Pyott (of Streethay).
		Leicester Barbour (of Tamworth).
		Joseph (? John) Whitehall (of Parkhall).
		Thos. Bagnall (of Newcastle).
		Fras. Cumberford (Colonel).
		Added—
		Wm. Bendie, junior (? of Shutend).
		And nominated of the *quorum*—
		Edward Brett (of Dimsdale).
		Zacchary Babington (of Curborow).
4 Mar. 1654	...	A general list, unfortunately not available.
22 Nov. 1655	...	Col. Chas. Wolseley (see *D.B.N.*).
18 July, 1656	...	John Yonge of Charnell (Charnes, *d.* 1656).
		John Whitby of Heywood.
4 Mar. 1657	...	Major-Genl. Tobias Bridge (M.P. Newcastle, 1659).
		And omitting—
		Edward Baggatt (sucd. to Blithfield, 1660, *d.* 1673).
20 Mar. 1658	...	Rowland Cotton (of Crakemarsh, Sheriff 1656).
		Ric. Leveing (of Leek, *postea* Recorder of Chester, *d.* 1697, aged 66).
		Thos. Kinersley (of Badger, or his son of Loxley).

[1] The executors of his will were, John Swynfen, Zacchary Babbington, Captain Stone, John Turton of Alrewas, all prominent puritans.

[2] No life of Harrison has noted the fact that he was for a few months Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire. He fell from power in December, 1653. The others "omitted" in December were also, probably, fifth monarchy men.

[3] Thomas Burslem of Burslem died in 1628. His daughters and co-heiresses married, one William Colclough of Gray's Inn, barrister, *d.* 1662; and the other Gilbert Wedgwood, father of the family of potters, who succeeded to all the Burslem estates in Burslem on the death of their aunt without living issue in 1669.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
		Thos. Whitby (of Great Heywood).
		Mathew Worswick (of Stafford, brother-in-law to Colonel Bowyer).
		Thos. Jent.
		George Brindley (of Kinver).
24 Sept. 1658	...	Whole comn. renewed by Richard, Ld. Protector, not available.
16 July, 1659	...	Whole comn. renewed, list not available.
23 Mar. 1660	...	Whole comn. renewed, list not available.

CHARLES II.

30 July, 1660	...	William, Lord Pagett, appointed *Custos Rotulorum* (*d.* 1678), and others put on the commission, names not given.
20 Aug. 1660	...	Robt. (Greville), Lord Brooke, to be Lord Lieutenant.
25 Sept. 1660	...	John Lane (Cavalier Colonel of King's Bromley, M.P., *d.* 1667).
		Ric. Congrave (of Stretton, *b.* 1610).
		John Skrimshire, the younger (son of John S. of Norbury).
7 Mar. 1661	...	Anthony Dyott (barrister, *d.s.p.* 1662).
18 May, 1661	...	Robt. Robotham.
22 Feb. 1665	...	William Trafford (of Swythamley, *d.* 1697, aged 81).

A General List, from Patent Rolls 3074, of 17 Charles II. (1665).

Edward (Hyde), Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chancellor.
Thos. (Wriothesley), Earl of Southampton, Lord Treasurer.
John, Lord Robert (Robartes), Privy Seal.
George (Villiers), Duke of Buckingham.
George (Monck), Duke of Albemarle.
Jas. (Butler), Duke of Ormond.
William (Cavendish), Duke of Newcastle.
Montagu (Bertie), Earl Lindsey, Great Chamberlain.
Edward (Montagu), Earl of Manchester, Chamberlain.
Philip (Stanhope), Earl of Chesterfield.
Wingfield, Eard of Ardglass.
William, Lord Pagett, *Custos Rotulorum* (*d.* 1678).
Robt. (Greville), Lord Brooke.
Chas., Lord Gerrard.
Humble, Lord Ward.
Sir Thos. Twisden, Knight, Justice of Assise.

Sir Thos. Tyrrell, Knight, Justice of Assise.
Sir Thos. Wilbraham, Baronet (of Woodhey, co. Cestr., and of Weston-under-Lizeard, *j.u.*).
Sir Edward Bagott, Bart. (of Blithfield, M.P. 1660, *d.* 1673).
Sir Edward Littleton, Bart. (M.P. 1663–79).
Sir Chas. Wolseley, Bart. (Parl. Colonel, *d.* 1711).
Sir Fras. Lawley, Bart.
Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart. (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1686).
Sir John Bowyer, Knight and Bart. (of Knypersley).
Sir John Wirley, Knight (of Hampstead).
Sir Bryon Broughton, Knight (of Broughton, *cr.* Baronet, 1661).
Sir Thos. Whitgrave, Knight (of Bridgford and Burton).
Sir Walter Littleton, Knight, a master in Chancery.
Sir Roland Okeover, Knight (of Okeover, *d.* 1692).
William Sneade (of Keele, *d.* 1694).
John Lane (of King's Bromley, *d.* 1667).
Edward Vernon (of Hanbury, co. Worces.).
Randle Egerton (Colonel, M.P. 1661–79).
Henry Graye (of Enville, *d.* 1686).
George Digby (of Sandon).
Walter Chetwind, jun. (the Antiquary, *d.* 1693).
Robt. Milward (M.P. Stafford 1661–74, *d.* 1674).
William Trafford (of Swythamley, *d.* 1697).
Thos. Kinnersley (of Badger and Loxley).
Ric. Congrave (of Stretton).
Edward Mainwaring (of Whitmore, M.P. Newcastle 1661–75, *d.* 1675).
Henry Vernon.
Chas. Cotton (of Beresford, the poet and angler).
Jonathan Wodenothe (of Rocester).
John Piershowse (of Reynold's Hall, Will dated 1677).
Wm. Chetwind (of Ridge, M.P. Stafford 1661–79).
Roland Cotton (of Crakemarsh).
George Parker (of Parkhall, in Caverswall, *d.* 1675).
John Wheithall (of Parkhall, near Leigh, *d.* 1684).
Henry Archbold (Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield).
Robt. Robotham.

All *armigeri*.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
14 June, 1665	...	Mr. Justice Tyrrell.
		Ric. Adderley (of Coton).
		George Vernon.
		Chas. Agard.
27 Feb. 1668	...	For placing the Lord Keeper, and leaving out the Earl of Clarendon.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
25 June, 1668	...	Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Knight (of Elmhurst, M.P. Lichfield 1661–79).
		Daniel Watson (of Burton-on-Trent).
27 July, 1670	...	For leaving out Sir Chas. Wolseley and adding Thos. Lane, of Bentley.
20 Feb. 1671	...	Edward, Lord Ward.
		Henry Gough (of Bushbury).
15 Mar. 1672	...	Walter Littleton.
17 Feb. 1673	...	Nicholas Hurt (of Casterne).
3 Dec. 1673	...	George Vernon, also placed in Derbyshire.
28 Feb. 1676	...	Sir John Bowyer, Bart.
12 Sept. 1676	...	John Legh.
6 Mar. 1677	...	Sir Robt. Shirley, Bart. (M.P., *cr.* Lord Ferrers 1677).
		Sir Walter Bagott, Bart. (sucd. 1673, M.P., *d.* 1704).
		Thos. Rudyard (of Rudyard, *d.* 1684).
		William Parker (of Parkhall in Caverswall, *d.* 1701, aged 81).
25 July, 1677	...	John Every, also to co. Derby.
5 July, 1678	...	Wm. Leveson Gower (of Trentham, M.P. 1675–92).
		Wm. Crompton (of Stone Park).
5 Nov. 1678	...	Jas., Duke of Monmouth, to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
6 Nov. 1678	...	Humphrey Wyrley[1] (younger brother of Sir John).
19 Dec. 1678	...	Thomas, Lord Bishop of Lichfield.

The Harleian MSS. 7020, f. 3, at the British Museum, gives the following list of Staffordshire J.P.'s, which from intrinsic evidence must belong to the year 1679. It is remarkable for the enormous number of peers on the roll, as also for showing how the numbers of the Bench had begun to increase with the growing powers of the landed gentry :—

1679.

Prince Rupert, Earl Palatine, Duke of Bavaria (*d.* 1682).
William, Archbishop of Canterbury.
Heneage, Lord Finch (Lord Chancellor 1674–81, *d.* 1682).
John (Robartes), Earl of Radnor (President of the Council 1679, *d.* 1685).
Arthur (Annesley), Earl of Anglesey (Privy Seal 1672–82).
Charles (Monck), Duke of Albemarle.
James (Scott), Duke of Monmouth.
Henry (Cavendish), Duke of Newcastle.
John (Maitland), Duke of Lauderdale.

[1] Prothonotary to the Court of Common Pleas, *d.* 1689.

1679.

James (Butler), Duke of Ormond, Lord Steward.
Charles (Paulet), Marquis of Winchester.
Henry (Somerset), Marquis of Worcester.
Robert (Bertie), Earl of Lindsey, Great Chamberlain.
Henry (Bennet), Earl of Arlington, Chamberlain.
John (Egerton), Earl of Bridgwater.
John (Grenville), Earl of Bath.
George (Saville), Earl of Halifax (Earl 1679, Marquis 1682).
Philip (Stanhope), Earl of Chesterfield.
Thomas (Belasyse), Viscount Fauconberge.
Henry, Bishop of London.
Thomas, Bishop of Lichfield.
Thomas, Lord Windsore.
William, Lord Pagett.
Robert (Shirley), Lord Ferrers.
Edward, Lord Ward.
Laurence Hyde, arm. (son of Clarendon ; 1st Lord of the Treasury 19 Nov., 1679, and P.C. ; Viscount Hyde 1681 ; Earl of Rochester 1681).
Henry Coventrie, arm. (Secretary of State, brother-in-law of Shaftesbury, retired 1680).
Fras. Mouth, Knight (Chief Justice).
John Ernle, Knight (Chancellor of the Exchequer).
Thos. Chichley, Knight.
Sir William Temple, Bart.
Daniel Finch, arm. (M.P. for Lichfield, 1679 ; 1st Lord of the Admiralty and P.C. Feb. 1680 ; son of the Lord Chancellor).
Sir Leoline Jenkins, Knight.
John Gray, arm.
Sir Robt. Carr, Knight and Bart., Chancellor of the Duchy.
Sir Edward Atkins, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer.
Sir Creswell Leving, Knight, Justice.
Sir Heanage Finch, Solicitor-General.
Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart. (of Weston-under-Lizeard, M.P., *d.* 1692).
Sir Walter Bagott, Bart. (of Blithfield, M.P., *d.* 1704).
Sir Edward Littleton, Bart. (of Pillaton).
Sir Francis Lawley, Bart.
Sir John Bowyer, Bart. (of Knypersley, M.P.).
Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart. (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1686).
Sir Thomas Thynne, Bart.[1] (M.P. for Tamworth, *cr.* Viscount Weymouth, 1682).
Sir Brian Broughton, Knight and Bart. (of Broughton).
Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Knight and Bart. (of Elmhurst, *d.* 1683).
Sir Rowland Okeover, Knight (of Okeover, *d.* 1692).
Sir Simon Degg, Knight (Recorder of Derby, *b.* 1612, *d.* 1703).

[1] He is said by G.E.C. to have succeeded as second Baronet on 6 March, 1680.

1679.

Sir Henry Archbold, Knight (Chancellor of Lichfield Diocese).
Sir Henry Gough, Knight (of Bushbury).
George Vernon (of Sudbury, Co. Derby).
William Leveson Gower (of Trentham, M.P., Bart. 16).
Edward Vernon.
William Sneade (of Keele, *d.* 1694).
Henry Gray (of Envil, *d.* 1686).
Walter Chetwynde (the antiquary, of Ingestre, M.P., *d.* 1693).
John Everey.
Richard Congreave (of Stretton).
Clottworthy Skeffington (2nd Viscount Massarene).
Thomas Willmott of Yardloe (? of Eardley).
William Chetwynde (of Rudge, M.P.).
Thomas Lane (of Bentley, *d.* 1715).
Humphrey Wirley, sen.
Charles Cotton (of Beresford, *d.* 1687, see *D.N.B.*).
Thomas Kynnersley (of Loxley).
Thomas Rudyard (of Rudyard, *d.* 1684).
Henry Vernon (of Hilton).
William Parker (of Parkhall, *d.* 1701).
Daniel Watson (of Burton-on-Trent).
John Legh.
John Wheithall (of Parkhall in Leigh and Pipe Rideware, *d.* 1684).
Edward Morton (of Engleton).
Robert Leveson, of Wolverhampton.
Edwin Skrimshire, of Aqualate (M.P.).

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
12 Dec. 1679	...	Robt., Earl of Sunderland, to be *Custos Rotulorum*, during the minority of Chas., Earl of Shrewsbury.
2 Jan. 1680	...	Robt., Earl of Sunderland to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
8 Mar. 1680	...	Commission renewed for the leaving out of several persons. List not available.
22 May, 1680	...	Sir Thos. Whitgrave, Knight.
30 June, 1680	...	John Gray (M.P. Staffs. 1689–98).
24 Dec. 1680	...	For leaving out Sir Thos. Whitgrave, Knight.
15 July, 1681	...	For leaving out William, Lord Pagett, Sir John Bowyer, and others not named (-whigs).
8 Sept. 1681	...	Chas., Earl of Shrewsbury, to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
17 Nov. 1681	...	Sir Chas. Holt, Bart. (of Aston Manor).
21 Mar. 1682	...	Rowland Okeover the younger (M.P. Stafford 1685–7).
7 July, 1682	...	Edward Byrch (a lawyer).
4 July, 1683	...	For leaving out John Legh.
11 Oct. 1683	...	George Bridges (M.P.).
4 Dec. 1683	...	John Persehouse.

Date of Appointment.		*Name.*
4 Nov. 1684	...	For leaving out Henry Vernon.
21 Feb. 1685	...	Chas., Earl of Shrewsbury, to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
16 Mar. 1685	...	Chas., Earl of Shrewsbury, to be Lord Lieutenant.

JAMES II.

28 Jan. 1686	...	Sir John Bowyer, Knight and Bart.
5 Mar. 1687	...	The Privy Councillors are placed on the Comn.
28 June, 1687	...	William Ward.
2 Sept. 1687	...	Robt. Shirley, Lord Ferrers, to be Lord Lieutenant.
10 Mar. 1688	...	Walter, Lord Aston (Catholic), to be *Custos* and Lord Lieutenant.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

21 Mar. 1689	...	William, Lord Pagett, to be Lord Lieutenant.
28 May, 1689	...	William, Lord Pagett, to be *Custos Rotulorum.*
5 Sept. 1689	...	John Pyott (of Streethey).
20 Feb. 1692	...	John Chetwood (of Oakley, Bart., 1700).
		James Wood (of Uttoxeter).
1 Mar. 1692	...	Sir Edward Hungerford, K.B. (M.P., *d.* 1711).
30 June, 1692	...	George Vernon.
15 July, 1695	...	For leaving out George Vernon.
25 Feb. 1696	...	William, Bishop of Lichfield.
20 July, 1697	...	Edward Bagott (heir of Blithfield, sucd. 1704, *d.* 1712).
		one other (unnamed).
20 Dec. 1697	...	Comn. renewed for leaving out several persons that are dead.
25 July, 1699	...	For leaving out Wm. Nabbs, dead, and adding—
		Thos. Wright (? of Fradswell).
		and one other (unnamed).
5 July, 1700, 29 Oct.		1700, 21 July, 1701, 1 July, 1702. Comn. renewed for leaving out and adding persons unnamed.
23 Feb. 1705	...	Edward Mainwaring (of Whitmore).

The following list, taken from Harleian M.SS. 7512, f. 48, professes to be a list of the Staffordshire J.P.'s in the time of his "Late Majesty." From internal evidence it was evidently drawn up on the accession of Queen Anne, and represents the bench as at the death of King William :—

1702.

Thomas (Thynne), Viscount Weymouth (of Longleat, *d.* 1714).
Clotworthy (Skeffington), Viscount Mazarine (of Fisherwick, *d.* 1714).
William, Bishop of Worcester.
John, Bishop of Lichfield.
William, Lord Pagett, *Custos Rotulorum.*
Edward, Lord Dudley and Ward.
John Gray, Esq.
Henry Pagett, Esq. (M.P., heir of Wm., Lord Pagett).
William Ward, Esq. (heir of Edward Lord Ward).
Sir Thomas Pershall (of Horseley, *d.* 1712).
Sir Charles Holt (of Aston Manor).
Sir John Leveson Gore (of Trentham, M.P.).
Sir Walter Bagott (*d.* 1704).
Sir Edward Littleton (of Pillaton, *d.* 1709).
Sir Charles Wolseley (of Wolseley, *d.* 1714).
Sir Thomas Lawley.
Sir William Bowyer (of Knypersley, *d.* 1702).
Sir Walter Wrottesley (of Wrottesley, *d.* 1712).
Sir Brian Broughton (of Broughton).
Sir Michael Biddulph (of Elmhurst, M.P., *d.* 1718).
Sir John Chetwode (of Oakley, *cr.* Bart. 1700, *d.* 1733) baronetts.
Sir Edward Hungerford, K.B.
Sir Simon Degg.
Sir Henry Gough.
Sir Charles Skrimshire (of Norbury, *d.* 1709).
Sir John Turton (of Alrewas, a Baron of the Exchequer, *d.* 1704), knights.
Edward Birch, Serjeant-at-law.
Joseph Girdler, Serjeant-at-law (M.P., Tamworth).
Edward Littleton.
Thomas Broughton.
Jervais Peirpoint.
Rowland Okeover (of Okeover, sucd. 1692, *d.* 1730).
George Rodney Bridges.
Thomas Lane (of Bentley).
Robert Leveson (of Wolverhampton).
Rowland Cotton (of Crakemarsh, M.P.).
Humphrey Wirley.
Mathew Floyer (of Hintes).
Henry Vernon the elder.
Michael Noble (of Chorley, *b.* 1650, *d.* 1708).
William Parker (of Parkhall, ? *d.* 1701).
Ralph Snead (of Keele, *d.* 1703).
John Chetwind (of Rudge and Ingestre, M.P., *d.* 1702).
Philip Foley.

1702.

Thomas Foley the younger (M.P.).
John Lawton.
Walter Moseley.
Philip Pargiter (of Mauveysin Ridware).
Philip Hollins (of Mosseley, *d.* 1724, aged 80).
John Dickins (of Leaton-in-Bobington).
George Vernon.
Francis Eld (of Seighford).
John Pershall.
Thomas Whitby (of Great Heywood).
Henry Every.
Ducy Moreton (of Engleton, *cr.* Lord Ducie, 1720).
Richard Dyott (of Lichfield, M.P.).
George Parker.
Isaac Hawkins (of Burton-on-Trent, barrister).
William Cotton (of Crakemarsh).
William Walmisley (M.P., Lichfield).
James Wood (of Uttoxeter).
John Newton (? of King's Bromley).
Edward Bagott (heir to his father, M.P., sucd. 1704, *d.* 1712).
James Rudyard.
Henry Vernon the younger.
Peter Persehouse (of Gwarnhall-in-Sedgley).[1]
Richard Pyott (of Streethey).
John Hoo (of Bradley, Serjeant-at-law, *d.* 1720), esquires.

[1] He was Serjeant-at-Arms to the House of Lords.

REVIEWS.

BY THE HON. SECRETARY.

Calendar of the Inquisitions Post Mortem. Vols. V, VI, VII, 1307–1335.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908, 9, 10.

The county historian is bound to regret that these calendars omit altogether the details of the manors and the names of the jurors. This last is a matter of great importance during the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., when the assigning of dates to charters and deeds depends so largely on the witnesses and on a knowledge of the period when each witness was in active public life.

However, we have printed in full the parts of these inquisitions which refer to tenants of Staffordshire lands, and need not therefore consider each of these volumes in great detail.

The admirable indexes, in which are embodied a vast amount of valuable identification work on the part of the compilers, are especially useful in this series on account of the index of subjects. Here we find collected the old English words used ; from which a long glossary might be compiled. It will be remembered that in the old theyn-lands in north Staffordshire, Audley, Tunstall, etc., two ancient customary payments survived in 1307, and were still to be found in the seventeenth century. This was the triennial payment of *kilgh* or *stuth*. We may note the existence of some payment called *kilgh*, *kylgh*, *kelf*, *kilw*, *kyltol*, during those years at Tintern (Co. Mon.), Ewyas Lacy (Co. Hereford), Wemme (Co. Salop), at Tyrley, and at Haverfordwest ; while *stoth*, or *stuth*, is paid at Thorney (Co. Notts.), at Bolingbroke (Co. Linc.), and at Denstone, Stramshall, Fenton, Biddulph, and Bucknall in Co. Stafford. It may be observed that all these places where *kilw* or *stoth* was paid in Staffordshire, were described in Domesday Book under the head *Terræ Tainorum Regis*—theyn-lands. *Stoth* or *stot* is easily confounded with Scot, "c" and "t" being undistinguishable in old writing ; but the letters are distinct in the seventeenth century and then the word is unmistakably *stoth*. *Churchscot* and *sheriffscot* must be distinct ; and possibly *sheriffstooth*, which we find in the form shirrevysthuth in counties Leicester, Lincoln, Yorks and Bedford is from yet another root. *Kilgh* is Welsh. It is a payment for the support of the household of the lord equivalent to the *firma unius noctis*.

The same subject index gives a list of strange Christian names, and one is pleased to find a solitary George existing in Co. Wexford six hundred years ago. It is satisfactory to discover that the name can claim an Irish as well as a German origin. But Femmota and Hugelina, Biblia and Roberga might be resented now by young ladies and would authorize a grudge against eccentric godparents. Mazelina sounds like an early advertisement, but she was an heiress from the East Riding.

The services, too, by which lands were held make strange reading when collected in the index, and would have complicated the coronation ceremony. Alice de Vere held an Essex manor by the service of guarding the Queen's chamber at the coronation; Guy de Beauchamp placed a cloth on the King's table on Christmas day; Reginald de Grey held Hemingford, and in return found a spindleful of thread for sewing the King's pavilion; while Henry de Clare rendered two capons whenever the King crossed his doorstep. Others paid their quitrents in truck, rendering white spurs or gilt spurs; red, sparrow, mewed or sore-hawks; garlands of roses or clove gillie flowers; a silver needle, a cap of peacock's feathers, gloves, white, or grey, or buck-skin. Even a root of ginger or four horse shoes served, though the modern man might have some difficulty in cooking the "maupigernoun" in Westminster Abbey, or handing in to the Exchequer 20 pies of fresh herrings, or 200 pearmain pears and two mues of wine. William Russell of Bradwell Wood had to conduct the King from Blythford to Wrineford when there was war in Wales, but we protest that the service of the Lord of Broseley was not "sitting down at the first dish" at the Prior of Wenlock's table, but carving it, *scindendi* not *sedendi*.

Of all these inquisitions it is the proofs of age that afford both the genealogist and the student of human nature most satisfaction. The various reasons given by the witnesses for remembering that Ralph or John was born 21 years ago provide a very realistic mine of information for the social historian, and as the ages of witnesses as well as of the principal character are given, we obtain a regular series of somewhat dubious birth certificates with each inquisition. How accurate these entered ages were I cannot say; were there really, for instance, three John Bassets, one of Co. Rutland, *b.* 1285; one of Co. Sussex, *b.* 1282; and one of Co. Wilts, *b.* 1272, whose wife Alice died in 1310, or were they all one and all doubtful about their age when they had passed 50 years?

The Bassets are almost too ubiquitous—Robert in Co. Dorset was aged 50 in 1318; Thomas of Netherhaddon in Co. Derby, *d.* 1329, leaving a son and heir, John, aged 5; while as for Ralphs, we have Ralph Basset of Drayton, lord of Nether Melcombe, Dorset, of Colston Basset and Wyverton, Notts; Ralph Basset of Sapecot, lord of a dozen manors in Warwick, Leicester and Lincoln, and of Cheadle in Co. Staffs, 1314–6; and also Ralph Basset of Welledon, lord of Blatherwick, Woodford and Rishton in Northhants, of Holewell and Ketleby in Leicester, and of Madeley Alfac in Staffs. This last succeeded his father Richard after 1314, and came of age in 1321, when we learn that he was born at Huntingfield

in Suffolk, his mother being Joan, daughter of Sir Roger de Huntingfield; and William le Keu knew it because he "went to Norwich to seek a doctor for the said Ralph's mother, and they came to Huntingfield on the day of his birth." From the Grey inquisitions we learn that John and Ralph were sons of Lord Ralph Basset of Drayton in 1312, that in the same year Heloise, the mother of the same lord, was married to Thomas de Barkely, and that she died in 1327.

Elsewhere we find Sir John Giffard, aged 50 in 1317, giving evidence in Co. Oxon; Roger de Bromley, lord of Rowton, Salop, dying in 1318, and leaving William, his son and heir, aged 26; John de Arderne, aged 50, had dined at Blatherwick 21 years before 1318; while of Nicholas de Beek, aged 50 in 1333, we learn that in 1312 he was of the household of Sir Louis of France and was sent into England to make provision against the coming of the said Sir Louis to Westminster at the time of the birth of King Edward III.

Fulk de Penebrug, lord of Tonge, died in 1326, leaving a widow, Maud, and a son, Fulk, aged 15; and Hugh de Meynil died in 1333, leaving as his son and heir Hugh, aged 31,—another heir who afterwards became a great Staffordshire landowner. We may add to the Audley pedigree that the proof of age of Jas., Lord Audley of Heley, makes his birth take place at Knesale, Co. Notts, on Monday next after Circumcision last, *i.e.*, 2nd December, 1313, and Sir James de Audeleye his kinsman, John de Crumbewell and Agnes de Mosters lifted him from the sacred font.

A new castle is discovered for Staffordshire in the inquisition on John le Strange of Cheswardine in 1330. John de Leybourn, son of Lucy sister of the said John, aged 30, inherits lands from John, but he does not get Cheswardine and its "ruined castle," which reverts to Hamo, son of Fulk l'Estrange. It is also unknown to the reviewer in what manner a James de Stafford came to have an interest in Aston Manor by Birmingham, in which he enfeofs a tenant in about the year 1282.

We would urge in conclusion that the references in the index be made in future to the page and not to the number of the inquisition. This latter practice leads to much unnecessary waste of time.

Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Hen. VIII, Vol. XXI, Part i and ii, 1546.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

When the Earl of Surrey, in command of the English Army in France, writes to ask Paget to get the King, as head of the Church, to allow him some relaxation of the Lenten fasts, and when we see Paget consulting the King and sending back the gracious permission without a smile, it gives one some idea of the nightmare that the last few years of Henry's life must have been for England. Henry burnt and beheaded both sides with great

impartiality. We get here the full account by Anne Askew of her racking by the Lord Chancellor. His two chief ministers were Edward Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, and Sir William Paget, the progenitor of the family of Beaudesert.

It appears to have been in this year that Paget got his great Staffordshire estates and settled at Beaudesert. On 31st January, 1546, as King's Councillor, he has a grant of the College of Burton-on-Trent with the manors of Burton, Bramston (Braunston), Stretton, Harnynglow, Wyghtmere, Ansley (Anslow), Shobnall Grange, and lands in Pellentenhall, Wyston, Dorlaston, Abbots Bromley, Feld, Stone, Leigh, Ilam and Okeover; a dozen advowsons in Staffs, besides lands and advowsons in Derby and Warwick—all the lands of the Abbey or College of Burton. For most of the manors he had to pay fee farm rents. This grant was not all. In September, the Bishop of Lichfield surrendered to the Crown the manors of Beaudesert, Longdon, Heywode, Barkeswiche (Baswich), Cannok and Rugeley, the parks of Beaudesert and Heywode, the chase and wood of Cannok, with appurtenances in Curburgh, Elmerst, Sutherowe, Bracton, Stoketon, Walton, Stafforde, Leycrofte, and others in Co. Derby; and on 26th October, these surrendered manors were granted to Paget. Even before this, on 10th October, a letter speaks of Paget removing his household into Staffordshire. Immediately afterwards he grants Ilam and tithes in Ilam, Stanshope and Castern, late in the tenure of John Cartelege, Ralph Bowrynge and Margaret his wife, and Thomas Henson, to John Porte. The same year we find Paget appointed Surveyor of Tutbury, and Keeper of the Parks of Rolston, Stokeley, Barton, etc., and of Nedewode Chace. He was made K.G. on Edward VI.'s accession, in January, 1547, and sat as M.P. for Staffs in the 1547–52 Parliament. Although he was created Baron Paget of Beaudesert in 1549, there seems to have been no "bye-election" to fill his place.

Among other of the King's servants who prospered in this year was Ralph Bagenall, who obtained a grant of tithes in Yorkshire, and, as "King's servant," obtained jointly with Lady Mary Cotton, widow of Sir Geo. Cotton, many lordships and lands in Richmondshire. He was also bailiff and collector of the lands in Derby, formerly belonging to the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. This business of bailiff and collector of dissolved monastery lands was no doubt a pleasant piece of patronage. Hugh Rathbone, a groom of the Chamber, had it for Stone Priory; Robt. Palmer for the Deulacres lands in Staffordshire; Thos. Lee for Croxden Abbey; James Mapurley for lands in Wetton and Butterton, late of the Abbey of Tutbury. Among the 16 King's Serjeants-at-arms we find Hugh Myners and John Smyth. This last may be the John Smyth, yeoman, who was M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1541–4 and 1553, and as John Smith, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, obtained a grant of Arms, 17th December, 1561 (see *Genealogist*, 26, N.S. p. 120).

Sir Philip Draycote, too, appears to have been in the King's service. He writes to the Earl of Shrewsbury, from his "house in Smethfield, the next house to the Olyvant," describing the King's hunting at Byfleet, and

mentions that he is "riding home to conclude the marriage of my cousin[1] and heir." In May he has the custody of the jointure lands in Loxley, Kingeston, Uttoxitor, and Leyshill, of Dorothy, wife of Thos. Kynnersley, a minor in the King's custody, which belonged to Thos. Kynnersley, decd., and are in the King's hands by reason of the minority of Thos. Kynnersley, jun., the kinsman (grandson) and heir (see *ante*, p. 153). He is also found surveying Chantries, and is sounded as to whether he will accept the Chancellorship of Ireland. To which he replies that he will serve wherever appointed, "trusting that he should have honestly whereupon to live." Henry Draycote was at this time Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer in Ireland. Also Wm. Sneyde, "a sewer of the Chamber," is made steward of the lordships of Horton and Betley, which shows that these Audley manors were still in the King's hands in 1546. Elsewhere we find that the King had *purchased* Redcastle (Salop) from Sir John Tuchett, Lord Audley (*b.* 1483, restored in honours 1512, *d.* 1557). We learn, too, that one Richard Audley was equerry of the stable, and Thos. Audley, lieutenant of the Fort at Boulogne called the Old Man.

The Staffords as well as the Audleys were in low water at this date. All we hear of them is that Sir Humphrey Stafford is dead and is succeeded by his son Humphrey, that a Humphrey Stafford was the husband of Margaret, one of the co-heiresses of Sir Edmund Tame, decd., and that George Stafford was implicated in Henry Lord Nevill's attempt to kill his wife and his father, the Earl of Westmorland, by black magic. It will be remembered that if a man had to be put away, and all other accusations failed, a charge of black magic was the final resource of the State.

But if the Staffords and Audleys were under a cloud, the Levesons and Littletons were rising, and the Lords of Chartley, now Devereux, Lord Ferrers, were becoming once more of national importance. Of Edward Littleton, Lord of Pillatonhall, we find that, with Walter Lord Ferrers, Sir John Gifford and Sir Philip Draycote, he is a Commissioner to raise voluntary contributions for the King in Staffordshire; while John Stonewell, Bishop of Pulati in Albania, sometime Abbot of Pershore, complains that he cannot get justice or his lands "because parcel of the lands lies in Huntyngton, which town belongs to Edw. Lytulton who uses his craft to get it." This is written to Anthony Bouchier, auditor to the Queen's grace. Another Staffordshire man in her service was her chaplain, John Wolseley. As for Leveson, Humphrey Conyngesby grants to John Leveson one-third of a messuage in Cannock; and John Taylor, of Seasdon, grants tithes in Treshull and Seasdon, to Edw. Leveson and Elizabeth, his wife.

From the Commission of Array we may learn who were the leading Staffordshire men of the day. The Commission for *Staffs* consisted of—Walter Lord Ferrers,[2] Henry Lord Stafford, Sir Philip Draycote, Sir George Griffith (200 men), *Thos. Gyfford*, 200 *men*,[3] John Peirsall (Peshall), 100

[1] Probably "grandson."

[2] Created Viscount Hereford in 1550, *d.* 1558.

[3] Cancelled.

men, Humphrey Swynnerton, 100 men. Elsewhere Sir George Blount, of Hopton and Kinlet, leads 400 men from Worcester to Dover (176 miles), receiving £231 13*s.* 4*d.*, "coats and conduct money," and something more for his "petty captain and other officers," while Richard Deverox (Lord Ferrers' son and heir and father of the first Earl of Essex) brings 300 men, apparently from Wales, where, as King's servant, he has grants in Co. Pembroke.

I think the Devereuxs must have been known for Protestant leanings, for Richard Devereux is ordered to attend the Council "touching words about creeping to the Cross, Holy Water, &c." ; and, though he gives no evidence against the catholicly inclined Surrey, yet he is quoted against him as speaking of his "pride and vain glory." By the way, the conduct of Surrey disclosed here, in throwing his sister in the way of Henry VIII. effectively deprives him of the halo of a martyr ; "She defied her brother, and said that they should all perish and she would cut her own throat rather than she would consent to such a villainy." Again, Sir John Olde, priest, chaplain to Lord Ferrers, who writes letters from Chartley, confesses "that he had been of light disposition concerning religion, but now professed unfeignedly to receive the King's Doctrine, and was dismissed (by the Council) with a lesson."

There are many grants of the old Abbey lands, giving us the names both of old tenants and grantees. Edward Watson of Rockingham has land in Gretton which belonged to Deulacres, Robert Thornhill, another speculator, has rents and services from John Savage, Thos. Piot, Jas. Russheton, Laur. Close, Ric. Hyggynbothon, Wm. Hulme, Roger Mutchel, Wm. Mellers, John Haughmound, Hugh Stoderd, Robt. Wordull, Ralph Hassall, Wm. Tofte, Ellen Tofte, John Nicson, Ric. Farnyhalghs, Henry Brereton, gent. of Fitzboriez, the relicts of John Gilson and Jas. Nicson, Thos. Mellers, Peter Close, John Hyggynbothon, Wm. Downes, all in Heaton, a water mill there called Berdehulme Mill in tenure of Ric. Hyggynbothon, and an annual rent of 42 capons ; also Chedulton Grange and land beyond the water of Charnett, in tenure of Ric. Newton and Joan, his wife, and James Ulstonham (Wolsenam), Hordlowe in tenure of Wm. Fowall, a messuage in Horton in tenure of Ric. Egge and Ralph Egge, his son ; all once belonging to Deulacres. Edw. Agard of London, paid £225 10*s.* 0*d.* for a grant of Hulton Abbey lands, viz.—The manor of Bradnappe, and land in the tenure of Thos. Cloos (Clowes) and Wm. Rode, beside Blokmerfield, and Wylgoose House in tenure of Steph. Bromley and Kath. his wife, and Ralph, his son, and rents paid by the tenants of Grendon, Waterfall, Butterton and Forde for common in Meryden Common.

Leases for 21 years of Abbey lands are made as follows :—

To Wm. Tofte of Heyton, a tenement in Leke.
John Devell and Agnes his wife, a mess. in Tettesworth.
Henry Kirkeham and Eleanor his wife, Lapley manor and tithes.
Agnes widow of Robt. Tatton, a tenement in Tettesworth.

Ric. Dale of Esyns (Easing), a tenement in Esynges in Leke.
Thos. Alen of Fryth, a tenement there within Leke.
Ralph Bagenall of London, tithes in Yorkshire.
Wm. Gent of Tettesworth, a tenement and ¼ of Holme Mill.
Robt. Turnoke, Ralph Hassall, Hugh Stodderd, Elen Tofte widow, all of Heyton, tenements there.
Wm. Clulowe, Wm. Plont and Wm. Armett, all of Fryth in Leke, messuages there.
Wm. Tatton of Byrcholte in Leke, mess. there.
Wm. Fowall of Hordelowe in Leke, mess. there.

We may add that John Savage, who held land in the moorlands, was under age and in ward to Sir Wm. Brereton in 1537; that Wm. Chatwyn died on 10th April, 1546, seised of Ingestre and Grotwiche and of land in Mutton and Rule, etc., and that Thomas his son, being aged 38 and more, had seisin (the inquest is not to be found in the published list); and that Thos. Rydgewaye, by his will dated 30th March, 1546, and proved before July, left to his relict Elizabeth lands in Walsall, Bloxwiche, Wodnesbury, Treshull and Seasdon.

Calendar of State Papers (Venice), 1615–17.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

These consist chiefly in the letters of Venetian representatives in England to the Doge and Council at Venice, and have been collected and transcribed by Mr. A. H. Hinds from the Venetian archives.

The Court gossip is full of interest for English historians, but we need only mention one or two extracts as affecting our subject. Lionello, the Venetian Secretary, writing from London, 7th October, 1616, says, "The superb funeral (at Sheffield) of the Earl of Shrewsbury is over who died four months ago (8th May). It cost 70,000 crowns owing to the banqueting which lasted for a fortnight to many thousands of persons. . . . The brother and wife of the deceased are now disputing about the rich inheritance of 100,000 crowns a year and more. Recently they came out into the field with well-armed forces, and even went so far as to exchange canon shots." The same sort of thing seems to have happened in Scotland, where the Earls of Errol and Huntly "can lead from 5,000 to 6,000 men into the field" against each other.

Richard Beresford is the agent for the Levant Company in Venice in 1617; and the Venetian Ambassador at Paris writes, 13th June, 1617, "The English Benedictine (Dr. Gifford), famous for his learning and eloquence, has urged the people (in Paris) to pray to God for the establishment of peace and religion in the kingdom," which seems to have given great offence to King Louis XIII.

Calendar of State Papers (Venice), 1617–1619.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

This volume covers the outbreak of the Thirty Years War. In August, 1619, Sir Walter Aston of Tixall, the ordinary Ambassador to Spain, is sent there with Lord Digby, as extraordinary Ambassador, to arrange the Spanish marriage which never came off. Other Staffordshire names occur as Sir Thomas Bromley whose ship was suspected of piracy, and who was generally a terror to the Spaniards on the River Plate and in the West Indies. While business was getting increasingly difficult for Christian pirates owing to the organisation of national fleets, the Barbary pirates were making trade in the Mediterranean and even outside almost impossible. Captain Henry Mainwaring of the Cheshire family gave up the business of piracy in 1616, and occurs frequently in this volume in his endeavours to enlist English ships and even to fight for Venice against Spain.

Calendar of State Papers (Venice), 1619–1621.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1910.

It would seem as though Gondomar the Spanish Ambassador really ruled England at this time. "The Crown and Sceptre of this realm," writes Lando the Venetian Secretary, "seem at present to be in the hands of the Spanish Ambassador." For George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham and chief favorite, and the other ministers too, were in his pay and his dutiful servants. Prince Maurice of Orange roundly declared that "all or the greater part of the English ministers are corrupt." Therefore it was that King James took no steps to help his son-in-law in the Palatinate. But others did adventure themselves, particularly those of strong Protestant convictions, and we find Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, Lord of Chartley, and Gilbert, Lord Gerrard of Gerrards Bromley, volunteering in 1620 and going out to the Palatinate with 2,000 men. Essex returned to England in five months and was put on the Council of War.

Another Staffordshire man prominent in this volume is Walter Lord Aston. On 27th January, 1620, he left for Spain. As "the Ambassador Arthon"[1] he is reported as having arrived at Madrid and seen King Philip in April. In October he is receiving his wife just out from England. The Venetian Ambassador in England says Aston is entirely dependent upon James' favorites and writes only to please them, while the Ambassador of the Republic at the Escurial curtly dismisses him thus: "But in truth this cavalier is more inclined to hunting than application to business."

The Mainwarings again occur in naval matters. Sir Arthur goes out

[1] This shows that the contemporary pronunciation of the name was "Arston."

to the Mediterranean in command of the *Constant Reformation*, while his brother Sir Henry, the ex-pirate, now pardoned by the King, is made Lieutenant of Dover Castle and peaceably represents that Borough in the 1621 Parliament.

Calendar of State Papers (Ireland), 1666–9.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

This volume finishes Ormonde's Viceroyalty. He fell with Clarendon, but all through these three years he was conscientiously doing all that he could, with hopelessly underpaid material, to prevent French invasion on the one hand, and to keep down the Tory robbers on the other. These latter, spoken of as Irish, English, and Scotch Tories, the term being used as synonymous with robbers, got control of whole counties in the Midlands, while the Government tried to hold the balance between the dispossessed Catholics and the dispossessed Cromwellians. The Irish Members of Parliament meanwhile managed to get from their constituents payment at the rate of £100 a day! and so abused their privileges that while the House was sitting, few debts could be collected. The astonishing abduction and rape of that high-spirited girl of 15, Mary Ware, niece of Lord Windsor, forms a fitting illustration of the Ireland of the day; especially perhaps in the sequel, when Lord Windsor, the injured uncle, is found petitioning to have the escheated estate of James Sherley, the abductor.

We get in this volume, too, what is probably the earliest notice of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. On 13th January, 1665–6, his father Sir Winston Churchill, writes to thank Arlington for having preferred him to be a page in Lord Sandwich's household. While further modern interest is to be found in a letter of Clarendon's of August, 1665, dealing with the confession and examination of "one J. Chamberlain, then prisoner at Stafford," on suspicion of plotting in England.

Among other Royalists, dispossessed in 1641, and restored to their estates under the Act of Settlement, we find Dudley Bagnall and Henry Bagnall, and Major Richard Broughton. This Richard Broughton, then a Captain in the Earl of Arran's Regiment of Guards, was one of those sent in May, 1666, to suppress the rioting at Carrickfergus, caused by the soldiers having no pay, no food, and no clothing. A Mr. and Mrs. Jervis are also found at Carrickfergus; and a Mr. Hickman, another Staffordshire name, was steward of Thomond, and writes to complain in 1668 that the troops have fallen on the tenants, taken free quarter, exacted riding money, and mortally wounded one.

Mention of other Staffordshire families occurs in the petition of Col. John Blount, son of George Blount, "slain in the service of King Charles I.," to have the custody of the Irish lands late of Blount, Lord Mountjoy, whose sons, George, Charles and Henry, are idiots, 22nd July, 1669. While the King, writing 7th May, 1669, requires £6,000 out of the Irish revenues for

the six daughters of the late Colonel John Lane, viz. :—Grace, Lettice, Elizabeth, Jane, Dorothy and Frances, "the better to prefer them in marriage." Sir Geo. Lane was at the time Secretary of State at Dublin.

The roistering Will. Chetwynd comes in again. Sir Nic. Armorer writes to Williamson from Dublin, 13th October, 1667, that he is coming over and may stay two or three days on the way to "feel the humor of my country friends, so please let me have scrip from you to Madly Manor to be left at Stone in Staffordshire. . . . Please send the enclosed to the Mews and, if you need it before I come, Chittwinde will help you to the 30 guineas." This may, however, not be Will., for, writing to Williamson again two years later, Armorer, after drinking his health, says: "One (letter) was writ to Sir Willoughby Aston, and one to Mr. Will. Chittwinde, a Member of Parliament, both in Staffordshire" (see XII, N.S., 288–9). This was Wm. Chetwynd of Ridge, M.P. for Stafford Boro'.

Calendar of State Papers (Ireland), 1669–70.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1910.

The Land Question was settled for a while, old or new landlords had got all they could, and Ireland was peaceable for a time. Armorer continues, in happy as in rough times, to send his humorous letters to Mr. Secretary Williamson. On 2nd May, 1670, he writes from Dublin: "I have sent the bearer, my ensign Chetwinde, up, to look after a small affair of mine that lies not in the Court. Yet it is possible I may want courtiers . . . Your worthy friend Mr. Joliffe may be of use, and I hope he will be ready to do me a good turn in return for many a long hour he has made me stay for my dinner. . . . Under the rosse the Talbots find themselves to seek and are fallen from their hopes."

Armorer's reputation may be judged from the letter which says: "My Lord's gentlemen drunk all last night, and I hope we shall have to day a merry journey. We only want Sir Nicholas Armorer." On 6th September, 1670, he writes from Madley Manor, "I hope to be in town soon. The Duke of Ormond went on Saturday to spend a fortnight with my Lord of Devonshire. . . . While my Lord Duke was in Derbyshire I visited friends in 'the land of Stafford.' At Sir Bryan Broughton's I met Will. Chittwinde, who was full of mirth, and all your servants. On Monday night we meet again here. . . . The master of this house, Jack Offley, is your servant and commands me to say so to you. Lord Carlingford called on me here and had a 'cup of the best.' . . . Direct yours for me to Stone. So Adieu." And again on the 16th, "I thank you for thine, Will. Chittwinde swore all in it was not worth a farthing candle, but poor I was pleased to get it. I dined at that merry member's house (Ridge by Standon) with Sir Henry Ebury and Mr. Bagott, where he railed at you sufficiently that you came to Billing, or rather a-billing and before you see any friend but one old woman, returned

to your coffee-house in Scotland Yard ; for all that a poxhang, here is to him !"

It is satisfactory to find in this volume Mary Ware, in early August 1670, marrying the son of Sir Alexander Fraser. She had managed to annul the forced marriage with her ravisher, James Sherley, and got him satisfactorily ruined.

The latter half of this volume contains various recently discovered Irish papers dating from 1624 onwards. A draft of a Civil Establishment for Ireland in 1625, contains the names of John Brereton, Serjeant-at-law, Henry Mainwaring, Oliver Bowen, etc. A petition of John Ferrers in 1661, protests that his home was burnt by the Irish rebels, that on coming of age he served the King till, on the taking of Drogheda, he was driven by the late usurper from all employment. He has since continued in a mean condition. The Colcloughs of Tintern, Co. Wexford, had better luck, for the King writes in 1663 to Ormond : "I ordered and adjudged him (Dudley Colcough) to be a person fit and worthy to be restored to his estate, a considerable part of which appeared to be in my own hands. I am satisfied of the loyalty of his ancestors to the Crown and recommend, etc." Col. Robert Broughton, of Sir Foulk Hunk's regiment in Ireland, also tries to get his land back in 1664.

In 1666 the Catholic Nobility and Gentry of Ireland signed protestation as to the treatment of the Church. This document is signed by five Earls and, among others, John Talbot of Malahide, Henry Draycott of Mornington, John Bagot, and Anthony Colclough.

Calendar of Treasury Books. Vol. III. 1669–72.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

These Treasury papers cover the period of the "Stop of the Exchequer,"—the first national bankruptcy,—and deal mainly with the minutes and orders of the Board of Treasury. The debt at the time of the "stop," amounted to between £2,000,000 and £2,250,000, and at the same period Charles II.'s gross revenue was about £1,340,000 per annum.

The bulk of this Revenue came from the farming of Customs, Excise and Hearth money ; and it was largely to the farmers as well as to the bankers that the debt was owed. Alderman Francis and Isaac Meynell, among the larger creditors—£216,000—were goldsmiths of London, and presumably bankers. Others were John Baggott, Page of the Presence to Charles I., Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper, Wm. Leveson Gower (£1,000), Ric. Lane, Wm. Legg, and Thos. Rudyard (£200) ; and all these seem to have been paid while there is a note of Rudyard getting £20 as *reward* for loan, 1671. The farmers or receivers of the Hearth money in Staffordshire were John Colles, Timothy Cole, Mr. Hodgkins, Hugh Holland and Ric. Ridley ; and Francis Hollinshead was Receiver of Aids.

Among the farmers of the Revenue we find prominent Colonel, and afterwards Major-General, Randolph Egerton, M.P. for Staffs. He farmed the Excise of the County for £4,500. His difficulties with Mr. Thomas Loxdale of Wolverhampton, who refused to pay, show that even farmers had their troubles. Nicholas Moseley was in like manner in 1664–5 Receiver-General of Hearth money for Cheshire. On 24th April, 1671, the Board write to Sir John Talbot and Major-General Egerton: "The 24 June draws on apace. You are forthwith to bring a list of the persons who are to be the farmers in each county, together with the rents and advance money to be made by each of them." And a contract on 18th May with Talbot, Egerton, Sir Wm. Bucknall and Sir Thos. Peniston, as representatives of the farmers, binds them to farm the Excise for £281,700 per annum, for three years, from 24th June, 1671. In the list which follows, Randolf Egerton is down for £4,500 in Co. Staff, Thos. Needham for £4,800 in Chester, Edw. Vernon for £5,075 in Derby, Sir Gilbert Gerard for £7,755 in Northumberland and Durham, and Sir John Talbot for £4,700 in Worcester. The Sub-commissioners of Excise for Co. Staffs. were at this time John Clement, Osbert Sutton, Abraham Carter, Wm. Finch, Hy. Hill, Ralph Marsh, and Ric. Raymond. As for other tax collectors, etc., on 27th July, 1671, Geo. Lea, gent., of Coppenhall, Cheshire, is made Receiver of Monastery Rents in Staffordshire in place of Edw. Ellis, deceased; also one Thos. Agar was Surveyor of Woods this side of Trent.

The recipients, too, of the King's bounty were many and various. The Pendrills, who helped him after Worcester, were well looked after. Ric. Pendrill and Mary his wife had £100 per annum; Wm. Pendrill £100 per annum; 100 m. each per annum to John, Humphrey and Geo. Pendrill, and £50 per annum to Eliz. Yates. Captain Humphrey Whitgrave, in respect of his loyalty and sufferings for the King, has a grant in 1672 of land in Burnham, Bucks. Pensions were also paid to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Mary Blagg, Chas. Gifford, Elizabeth Legg, Sir Peter Lely, Barbara Palmer, afterwards Duchess of Cleveland, and John Dryden, and very many others; and Eliz. Wolseley, widow, has £200 for her husband's great loyalty. Meanwhile poor Lord Paget is petitioning to have some part of the £4,000 owed to his father paid in order that he "may not fall into the hands of a stranger to the ruin of himself and his family."

Other people with Staffordshire names come into the accounts far and wide. John Adderley, senior and junior, are farmers of the Excise in Derby, while Wm. Adderley fulfills the mysterious function of "Receiver of Sixpenny Writs"; Richard Bagnall, "Gentleman Usher Quarter Waiter"; Thos. Broughton, Sub-commissioner of Excise in Co. Glos.; Sir Gilbert Gerard, Clerk to the Duchy of Lancaster; Sir Andrew Hackett, Master in Chancery; John Jervis, Steward of the Household of the Marches of Wales; Sir Geo. Lane, Secretary at War for Ireland; Colonel Ric. Lane, a groom of the Bedchamber; Robert and William Wolseley, Receivers of Crown Revenue, Co. Beds.; while Robert Foley the ironmaster is both "Ironmonger to the Navy" and "Receiver-General" in Co. Worcester. His brother, Thomas

Foley, the ancestor of the house (who bought the land at Fenton still called The Foley), got into trouble with his ironworks :—

"Take care that Thos. Folie obtain no pardon for the great spoil and waste to the King's timber to supply his ironworks in Salop and Stafford." 1st July, 1669. Another Controller of Excise is Elias Ashmole, Windsor Herald.

Lastly we have a note to the affect that the lands in Longdon, Co. Staffs., late of Edward Broughton, Esq., outlaw, are granted to William Webb.

Calendar of State Papers (*Domestic*), 1677–8.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1911.

The Parliament, very old and repeatedly adjourned, was pressing for an alliance with the Dutch and war with France. The King, or rather Lord Arlington and Sir Joseph Williamson who ruled in his name, was not at all anxious for anything which would stop the pensions coming from France. Meanwhile the Earl of Shaftesbury and the Whig lords lay in the Tower. Such is the history of this year, the year before the Popish Plot burst out.

One seems to see some sign of coming events in the conferring by the Mayor and Burgesses of Stafford of the High Stewardship of that Borough on the Duke of Monmouth, and the making of Daniel Wattson his Deputy Steward. Captain Daniel Wattson of Burton and of Gray's Inn, barrister, was a Parliamentary Captain and sat for Lichfield in the 1659 Parliament; now, as Major Wattson, he was apparently in charge of the Duke of Monmouth's stables.

Another more direct political entry gives us the earliest report of a Staffordshire M.P.'s speech in the House of Commons. They are some almost illegible pencil notes scribbled by Sir Joseph Williamson, and Sir Joseph was evidently even worse than Hansard at evolving sense out of an M.P.'s speech. Here it is, in February, 1678,—Swinfen (*Min.*, Tamworth), "In this uncertainty whether peace or war, all that can be is to aid his M., to support his M. and his allies in that uncertainty till it be seen whether peace or war. If war, then to meet again and do what shall be necessary." John Swinfen must have had a certain importance that H.M.'s principal Secretary of State should take down his words verbatim without having any desire to reply to and pulverize him. The other member for Tamworth at this time was Charles Boyle, Lord Clifford of Tamworth. He belonged to the other political persuasion, I suppose, for he had a permit to visit Shaftesbury in the Tower.

There is a long list of those made Deputy Lieutenants of Staffs. in April, 1677: Edward, Lord Ward; Sir Robert Sherley (created Lord Ferrers of Chartley, 13th December, 1677, "as that he now by inheritance possesses the lordship of Chartley, the ancient seat of the Lords Ferrers"); Sir Hy. Littleton, M.P. (see *D.N.B.*); Sir Walter Bagott; Sir Edward Littleton,

M.P.; Sir Walter Wrotesly; Sir. Fras. Lawley; Sir John Bowyer; and Sir Bryan Broughton, baronets; Sir John Wirley; Randolf Egerton, M.P.; Walter Chettwind, M.P.; Wm. Leveson Gower, M.P.; Henry Grey; Wm. Sneyd; Edward Vernon;—also Thos. Lane, dated 2nd July, 1677, Thos. Thynne (see *D.N.B.*), dated 2nd May, 1678; John Offley, dated 30th May, 1678. Most of these were at some time Members of Parliament, and it is in this year that Andrew Marvel compiled his list of pensioners. Of Egerton he says: "a Captain in the Guards, has had in boons £1000"; of Walter Chetwynd, the antiquary, "courted, treated and complimented out of his vote"; of Leveson Gower, "son-in-law to the Earl of Bath, had a great estate fell to him by chance (Trentham, etc.), but honesty and wit never came by accident."

At the same time the following Commissions to the Staffordshire Militia were made out:—to Thos. Lane, Fras. Eld, and Samuel Whitwick to be officers of a troop of horse, and to Captains W. Ward, R. Sneyd, — Noel, W. Parker, and — Orme, Lieutenants, Wm. Hopkins, Timothy Sterling, Thos. Pigott, — Mason, Edward Doughty, — Hall, and Ensigns Walter Moseley, Ralph Walker, — Ward, Edward Brough and — Bagshaw, to be officers of foot; and to Sampson Byrch to be muster master (14th April, 1677). Later, 12th December, 1677, Walter Chetwynd is commissioned to be Quartermaster to Capt. Hy. Slingsby's troop in the Earl of Oxford's Regiment. But this was the regular army, and I hardly think that Walter Chetwynd the antiquary can have been a quartermaster.

The Deputy Lieutenants were in charge of the Militia and, simultaneously with the Commissioning of the Militia, the Duke of Monmouth sends detailed instructions to the Deputy Lieutenants on the paying, accounting, mustering and training of the Militia (see p. 91); finally he recommends Edward Byrd, town clerk of Stafford, as well qualified to be clerk to the Militia.

Local Government by Justices had now superseded all other forms of Local Administration, and there are a few indications of this in these letters. Sir Brian Broughton, one of the justices, is found in correspondence with Williamson himself. He writes from Beaudesert on 30th June, 1677, "One that goes by the name of Smith, who is now in hold at Stafford, pretended to be the servant of myself and several others and gathered our rents. . . . I pursued and seized him and judge him fit for a severer prosecution than we can give him, therefore I desire to make him publicly known." Similarly on 24th November, 1677, Sir John Bowyer and Wm. Sneyde write from Knypersley to Secretary Coventry: "Having committed Thos. Walker and Thos. Hamersley to Stafford gaol on suspicion of clipping and coining, we find new evidence against them daily." They send up the examination against them. To whom Coventry replies that the King "is well satisfied with your proceedings and wishes you to see the prosecution continued, that the country may be rid of such pests."

There are also complaints of the unjust incidence of the land taxes as between different counties, Staffordshire seeming to come off very lightly.

Also on 12th July, 1677, the King instructs the Earl Marshal to grant to the descendants of John Lane of Bentley, "in augmentation to their paternal arms, three lions passant gardant or in a canton gules . . . and this concession is to be duly entered on record in the College of Arms."

Of the ecclesiastical appointments one may mention the grant to John Durell, D.D., Chaplain in Ordinary to the King, of the places of Dean of Windsor, Dean of Wolverhampton, and Registrar of the Garter, void by the death of Dr. Brune Ryves in July, 1677; and Thos. Bowyer, bred at Eton, and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, who has taken his M.A. degree and entered Holy Orders, is recommended by the King for the first vacant fellowship to the Provost of Eton.

Calendar of State Papers (America and West Indies), 1699.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

America and the West Indies and piracy go together in this volume, but Kidd, Gillam and Every are at last captured through the efforts of Governor Bellomont of New York. The ex-Governor Fletcher was now being tried by Bellomont for encouraging piracy. He was found guilty of "carelessness"; for his explanation of his intimacy with Pirate Tew,—namely, that it proceeded from the pleasantness of his conversation and a desire to reclaim him from an ill habit that he had got of swearing,—failed to quite satisfy the jury, however friendly.

It is impossible to decide what real Staffordshire people one comes across in these volumes, but it may be worth while to give a list of those names which might indicate a Staffordshire origin and the colonies in which they are to be found. For instance, in Nevis we find a Wm. Fenton, junior, making a deposition; Henry Adderley is a London merchant trading to New York; Charles Minors is the Secretary of Bermuda; Humphrey Davenport had settled in New York, and Edmund Broughton and Lieut. Jolley in Jamaica; John Stafford was a London merchant engaged in the slave trade; Mr. Twyford was a secretary in that Council of Trade and Plantations which tried to direct affairs from London and was the lineal predecessor of the present Colonial Office. One Mr. Broughton was H.M. Consul at Venice, while another, with Mr. G. Heathcote, gave evidence before the Board as to the forts in Jamaica. Edward Littleton was a planter in Barbados, and Sir Edward Littleton had some naval commands in the Bay of Bengal. Isaac Adderley was a ship's captain, and Richard Cradduck deposed that Isaac had been imprisoned in Bermuda on complaint of his men. P. Jodrell is a clerk in the House of Commons, and there are three or four members of the Lane family,—Sir Thomas, one of the proprietors of New Jersey, Walter in Maryland, and Ralph in Barbados.

Lastly, a complete list of the Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Clerks and

Surveyors of the Counties of Virginia shows us Wm. Moseley, surveyor of Essex Co., and Edward Moseley, a J.P. in Princess Anne Co. In Stafford Co., Va., itself, with the possible exception of Geo. Mason, the sheriff, there are no names which show any connection at all with the county in the old country. But in John and Francis Talliaferro, of Essex Co., one may recognize a possible ancestor of the famous lieutenant of General Stonewall Jackson.

Calendar of State Papers (*America and West Indies*), 1700.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1910.

Wm. Bowyer, senior, one of the captured crew of Captain Kidd's ship, seems to be the only Staffordshire man in this volume, though Stafford County, Virginia, also comes in as the scene of a horrible murder of a woman and six children by Indians.

Piracy was at its height this year, though Governor Bellomont seems to have got the better of it by the close. The difficulties he had to face were enormous. New York and Pennsylvania were dotted with "receptacles" for pirates ; precautions for conveying merchantmen to Virginia and Maryland had to be taken as if it were a state of war. When Captain Kidd, who had been in relations with ex-Governor Fletcher, was taken, he tried to bribe Bellomont by offering to show him where he had buried "50 or three score thousand pounds." One pirate had accounted for 17 English ships in three months, and the Governor of South Carolina was suspected to be in league with them. Graham, the Attorney-General at New York, is a "rank knave," hand in glove with the pirates ; and William Penn's chief joy is to find that the Anglican minister at Philadelphia had been discovered to be the receiver of pirate's gold, "the safest sanctuary Kidd's doctor could find in these parts for his treasure."

Other governors were not of the same stamina as Bellomont of New York and Nicholson of Virginia. For instance, the Lieutenant-Governor of of St. Kitts, Jas. Norton, said he would govern "by the sword and cane," and actually threw the Speaker of the Assembly into gaol. Most of the governors were proprietors' governors, and the proprietors themselves were very shadowy. Colonel Allen, for instance, had bought New Hampshire from one Mason for £250, worth, as Bellomont says, £3,000,000, and tries to buy Bellomont's assistance with an offer of half, and a dowry of £10,000 to his daughter on marrying Bellomont's son. "I told him I would not sell justice if I might have all the world," was the answer.

It will show how permanent is pronunciation in spite of changes of spelling if we mention that we find here the still familiar,—"Conetticot," "Woolidge," "Margitt," as the names of places, and "Wensday" and "Bus'ness" among familiar words.

Calendar of State Papers (*America and West Indies*), 1701.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1910.

There is nothing in this volume of special interest to Staffordshire people, but much that American genealogists will value, including a reference to a complete list of the inhabitants of Maryland, 32,000 in number.

War with France was in prospect, and the defenceless state of the colonies appears on every page, a defencelessness which the colonials would do nothing whatever to put right. Most of the American colonies were still owned by proprietors, much like a chartered company, and the inhabitants had no affection for any of the proprietors, unless it be Wm. Penn. In fact, in the Bahamas the proprietor's governor thought he would be "roasted alive," and was actually sent in irons on a ketch to New York.

Governor Codrington, of the Leeward Islands, comes best out of the record. The "most detestable villain living," who ruled Nevis "like any Bashaw," was actually convicted by Codrington, and went off to London to appeal. And, in a manner which seems strangely familiar, he induced the Assembly at St. Kitts to pass a land tax "which will oblige several to part with land which they have taken up and cannot develope, and so I hope to provide for a great many 5 or 10 acre men which is the true strength of these colonies." Of the ex-Governor of St. Kitts, mentioned in the previous Review, he says that he was "fitter to be a Rapparee than a Governor," and would condescend to plunder even for a pound of soap. He got him suspended, but not by the neck.

The pirates were apparently the most popular people in these colonies at this time. Two of Kidd's crew had bought their escape from Newgate for 300 guineas apiece, and went back to the Quaker Colony to dig up their gold, where they were not only "hugged and caressed" and "esteemed very honest men," but the President of the Council of New Hampshire "is going to marry his daughter to one of these villains."

For philologists it will be interesting to know that Governor Bellomont of New York used the words "on the carpet," and no less an authority than William Penn states that "other Provinces cutt us out."

Report on the MSS. of Lord Middleton, at Wollaton, Co. Notts. (*Historical Manuscripts Commission.*)

H.M. Stationery Office, 1911.

These volumes of the Historical Manuscripts Commission appear at the rate of about three a year, bound in yellow paper. They calendar very fully the MSS. that are in private hands, but the bulk of their material is private correspondence of the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and

eighteenth centuries, of no special interest to our Society. The present volume is an exception to this rule. Lord Middleton, as a descendant of the Willoughbys, Frévilles and Marmions, not only has a large mass of ancient deeds and charters, but many of them refer to Staffordshire lands. The deeds, too, have been edited, noted and dated by Mr. W. H. Stevenson, with a knowledge, covering the whole of England, such as an Eyton or a Wrottesley might display of Staffordshire deeds of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It is only possible to give the barest summary of what is to be found in this volume, which should be read as a study in charter-dating.

Aitrop Hasteng (note the absence of any *de*) is first witness to a deed of Henry de Montfort's, *c.* 1190; Warin de Burwardesl' (Broseley) and William, his son, occupy a similar position in a deed of Malcolm de Harley's, *c.* 1200. There is a grant by Geoffrey, son of John de Levedale, to William, son of Stephen de Levedale, of land in Levedale, specifying many field names, and witnessed by: Hugh in the Cemetery, Robt. son of Hugh, Robt. son of Matilda, Ric. son of Richard, Henry the parson, etc.

After Evesham Sir Philip Marmion had a series of grants of the lands of the "disinherited," but these do not seem to have included the Montfort lands, though the Montfort deeds must have come some time to the Frévilles. One of these deeds, by Sir Peter de Montfort in 1352, establishes prayers most conveniently for his father, mother, brother, and wife Margaret. He is said to have been a monk and to have died childless, and was the last of the de Montforts, see vol. 1911, p. 454.

The Audleys give us a note or two. John, Lord Audley, writes to borrow money off Willoughby in about 1520, and there is—1473, November 24th—Indenture between John, Lord Audeley, Knight, and Wm. Fyllol, son and heir of John Fyllol and Margaret, late his wife, of covenants concerning a marriage between the said William and Elizabeth, second daughter of the said lord. Signed "J. Audeley." This last adds to the Audley pedigree.

There is also a long account in Latin of the proceedings relating to the contested election of the abbot of Burton-on-Trent in 1430–3. Robt. Ownesby finally resigned in January, 1432–3, and Ralph Henley was elected. Thomas, Prior of Stone, and the archdeacon of Stafford were ordered to institute him. It appears that beside abbot and prior there were 18 monks at this time. Also of ecclesiastical interest is a "Taxatio" of the temporalities of the archdeaconry of Stafford of about the same date.

Uncalendared and uncatalogued are thousands of medieval deeds, some of which relate to land in Abbots Bromley, Cheadle-Basset, Coton-in-the-clay, Fauld in Hambury, Levedale, Rushall, Walsall, Wigginton, and Woollaston in Bradley. There are to be found also at Wollaton the Court Rolls of,—Tamworth, 1321, Cheddleton and Ford, 1347, 1405, 1408–10, 1484–5, of Perry Barr, 1511–35, and receivers' accounts of Cheadle, for Elizabeth, Lady de Grey of Codnor, of 1431–2.

Nor is this all. Among a magnificent series of Saxon charters dealing for the most part with the See of Worcester, is a translation in Anglo-Saxon of the will of Wulfric Spott, the founder of the Abbey of Burton-on-Trent

This Will has been printed at length in the *Monasticon*, and an annotated translation by W. H. Duignan and W. F. Carter was published in the *Midland Antiquary*, iv, 99. This copy enables three or four further emendations to be made in place of personal names, but none of sufficient importance to us to warrant the printing of the Will in these transactions.

There is also a full index of both place and personal names.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. WEDGWOOD,

The Corrigenda in the Society's Volume for 1911 raise a nice point as to the date of the death of William de Ipstones, over which my brother and I have been puzzling a good deal, because the correction seems inconsistent with a deed, dated 1291, mentioned in my father's History of Blymhill (*Staff. Coll.*, I, 294) on the authority of the Huntbache MS., Vol. II, then in the possession of Lord Wrottesley. That MS., which contained abstracts of deeds of a great many Staffordshire families, has unfortunately since perished in the disastrous fire at Wrottesley, but I have little doubt that the late General Wrottesley made a copy of it or copious extracts from it ; anyhow, my brother has a copy made by my father about 50 years ago, which we think must be nearly if not quite complete, and we can vouch for his accuracy as a copyist. The date there is certainly 1291, and the accuracy in other respects of the copy, or rather abstract, of this deed is shown by the suit in 1333 concerning the Blymhill advowson (*Staff. Coll.*, XI, 43), which is the leading authority for the Ipstones pedigree. So we think it is not to be lightly ignored as being inaccurate in respect of date.

The authority for your Corrigendum appears to be the recently published Calendar to the Fine Rolls of Edward I., and I make out that this Calendar contains three references to the death of a William de Ipstones (which I may add are confirmed by corresponding entries in the Record Commissioners' printed edition of the Originalia Rolls for those years, Vol. I, pp. 63, 64 and 76), viz. : (1) p. 272, an order dated 1st March, 1290, directed to the escheator on this side Trent, to take into the King's hand the lands late of William de Ippestones deceased, tenant by knight service of Gawain, son and heir of William le Butiller tenant in chief a minor in the King's ward ; (2) p. 277, a similar order dated 27th May, 1290, but referring to him as tenant of the *heir* of Gawain (who had died meanwhile) ; and (3) p. 317, a similar order dated 8th December, 1292, directed to the escheator beyond Trent, referring to lands held of the heir of Nicholas, late Baron of Stafford. This last order clearly refers to the William de Ipstones in question, and it is followed by the inquisition dated 21st December, 1292, which is set out in *Staff. Coll.*, N.S., Vol. 1911, pp. 215–217. But are you satisfied that the two earlier orders also refer to *the same* William de Ipstones? We have come to the conclusion that they do not, for the following reasons :—

1. It seems very unlikely that the King should have waited for nearly three years after William de Ipstones' death before directing his escheator to take

possession of the lands held of the heir of Nicholas, Baron of Stafford, who had been in the King's ward since 1282 (Fine Roll, 10 Ed. I., m. 16, Cal., p. 258).

2. The same argument applies to the assignment of dower to William de Ipstones' widow, which did not take place till January, 1293 (Close Roll, 21 Ed. I., m. 10, Cal., p. 277).

3. It is difficult to account on this hypothesis for the omission of all reference in the inquisition of December, 1292, to the lands held of the Botelers, for the names are given of four other lords under whom William de Ipstones held lands, and the person directed to take the inquisition was the same Malcolm de Harley to whom (as escheator on this side Trent) the order of 27th May, 1290, had been directed.

4. The date (1291) given in the Huntbache MS. for the Blymhill advowson deed of arrangement, to which William de Ipstones was a party, and upon the strength of which he made the next presentation to Blymhill Church.

There is no specific mention in the Fine Roll of the place where the holding under Gawain le Boteler was situate, but reference to the Testa de Nevill and Kirkby's Quest (*Staff. Coll.*, Vol. 1911, pp. 395, 404, and note) and to Eyton's notes on the Liber Niger (*ib.*, Vol. I, p. 226) makes it reasonably certain that the holding was *Derrington* in Seighford, held by the heirs of John Bagot of Blymhill of the Baron of Wem in 1243, and by William de Ipstones of Walter de Hopton (the second husband of Matilda, widow of Ralph le Boteler and in her own right Baroness of Wem) in 1284–5. This no doubt does trace the two holdings of Blymhill and Derrington to the same family, and at first sight appears to be a strong corroboration of the view taken by you in the Corrigenda. But we think that there is another possible and more satisfactory explanation, which not only is free from the objections I have mentioned but also derives independent support from other entries on the Public Records, and it is this :—That there were two Williams de Ipstones living in the early part of the reign of Edward I., one the son of John de Ipstones and grandson of William de Ipstones and Sarah Bagot, who died in 1292, and the other his uncle, a younger son of William and Sarah, who died in or before 1290. If the names in the two suits brought by Richard de Okeover in 1282 are accurately recorded on the Plea Rolls, and correctly transcribed in *Staff. Coll.*, Vol. VI, pt. 1, pp. 123, 151 (which I believe them to be, although the record in the second suit is in some places very difficult to decipher), I do not see how it is possible to resist this conclusion. But in any case we know from the Blymhill advowson suit in 1333 that Walter de Lega was presented to that rectory in the reign of Edward I. and while William de Ipstones was a minor and in ward to Adam de Chetwynd (Vol. XI, pp. 43, 44), and there was in fact an (unsuccessful) attempt by the King to appoint to the living in 1274 (Pat. Rolls, 2 Ed. I., m. 18, Cal., p. 51), which seems to mark the date of the death of Thomas Personssone, Walter de Lega's predecessor ; moreover, I gather from the two suits in 1282 that William, son and heir of John de Ipstones, was then between the age of 14 (when the guardianship in socage would come to an end) and the age of 21 (up to

which the guardianship in chivalry would continue). It is very difficult to believe that it can have been the same William de Ipstones who in July, 1272, before Edward I. came to the throne, was a party to a fine on buying up the claim of Beatrice de Okeover to dower out of lands in Derrington (Vol. IV, p. 254), and therefore was presumably then of full age.

Our suggestion is that William de Ipstones and Sarah Bagot, or more probably their eldest son John, made over the Derrington part of the Bagot inheritance to William, a younger son of William and Sarah and younger brother of John, and on this hypothesis all difficulties seem to us to be removed. The position is rather a complicated one, but perhaps it will be made clearer by the following pedigrees :—

William de Ipstones, 1220–1261, = Sarah Bagot, def. 1259.

- (1) John de Ipstones, *b. circ.* 1233, def. 1270. = Beatrice = (2) Richard de Okeover, *m.* in or *ante* 1272.
- William de Ipstones, 1272, 1282, def. 1290.

(1) John de Ipstones, a minor 1272, over 14 1282, occ. 1291, *d.* 1292. = Agnes, dower assigned 1293. = (2) Sir William Wyther, *m.* in or *ante* 1295.

- John de Ipstones, *b. circ.* 1284, occ. 1312, 1333, etc. = Elizabeth.
- William de Ipstones, clerk 1324, Rector of Longford 1332.

(1) Ralph le Boteler, *d.* 1281. = Matilda, dau. and heir of William Pantulph, Baron of Wem, *d. ante* 1292. = (2) Walter de Hopton, *m.* in or *ante* 1283, *d.* 1305.

William le Boteler = Ankeret, niece of James de Audley.

- John le Boteler, *b.* 1266, *d.s.p.* 1287. = Alianora, dau. of Walter, Lord Beauchamp, rel. 1287.
- Gawain le Boteler, *b.* 1270, *d.s.p.* 1290. = Alice, rel. 1290.
- William le Boteler, *b.* 1274, *d.* 1334. =

This last (Boteler) pedigree is taken substantially from Eyton's Shropshire, IX, 169–176. It is perhaps worth noting that in the Ipstones pedigree the name William seems to have recurred in every generation, either as the head of the family or as a younger son.

11, Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn,
16*th December*, 1911.

Yours truly,
C. G. O. BRIDGEMAN.

INDEX.

INDEX.

Acton, Edward de, 298.
——— John, 277, 282, 316.
——— Robert de, 276.
Adam, Thos., 279.
Adams, Roger, 17.
——— Thomas, 129.
——— Wm., 22, 163, 165.
Adamson, Robt., 171, 172, 173.
Adbaston, 19.
Adderley, Henry, 359.
——— Isaac, 359.
——— John, 356.
——— Ralph, 285, 290, 322, 323, 325.
——— ——— Thos., 293.
——— Rich., 302, 338.
——— Thos., 129, 234.
——— Will., 356.
Admiralty Records, List of, 243.
Adshead, Thos., 335.
Aer, John Fitz, 296.
Agar, Thos., 356.
Agard, Chas., 338.
——— Edw., 350.
——— John, 287, 300, 332.
——— Nich., 299, 318.
——— Ralph, 318, 320.
Agardsley, 222, 223, 247, 258.
Alanson, Rich., 233.
Alban, Will., Abbot of Deulacres, 10, 57.
Alben, Thos., 11, 12.
Alcock, Rich., 19, *and see* Allicock.
Aldershaw by Lichfield, 294.
Aldridge (Alrewich), Roger Hillar, Parson of, 251.
Aldunson, Peter, 257.
Algar, John, 34.
Alison, Rich., 257.
Allen, Benj., 227.
——— Colonel, 360.
——— John, 11, 67, 78, 102, 107, 108.
——— Rich., 10.
——— Robt., 128, 164, 189.
——— Roger, 91, 97, 98, 101, 116, 129, 154.
——— Thos., 93, 141, 142, 288, 351.
Allen, Thos., Dean of Chester, 229.
Allicock, George, 302.
Allott, Thos., 302.
Alote, Will., 10.
Alred, Henry, 127, 128.
Alrewas, 174, 217, 223, 289, 343.
——— John de, 311.
Alsop, Rich., 39.
Alston, 222, 223.
Alstonefield, 79, 145, 250, 255.
Alton Castle, 212.
——— Thos., Prior of Ronton, 25, 45, 46.
Amerton (Ambrighton), Nich. de, 251.
Amphlet, John, 289.
——— Rich., 288.
Ancient Correspondence, List of, 239.
——— Petitions, Index of, 211.
Andrew, Hugh, 4.
Andrews, John, 97.
Annesley, John de, 215.
Anslow, 19.
——— Chapel, 238.
Apeton, 222, 223.
Aqualate, 138, 292, 294.
Arblaster, Edm., 289.
——— Thos., 302, 315.
Archbold, Sir Henry, 338, 340.
Archer, John, 299.
——— Rich., 281.
Arden, John, 290.
——— Robt., 84, 85.
Arderne, John de, 347.
——— Marten, 27.
Arkwright, Chas., 293.
Arley, 218.
Arment, Will., 78.
Armet, Will., 291, 351.
Armitage, 293.
Armstrong, Edw., 76.
Ashby, Will., 44.
Ashenhurst, Edw., 335.
——— Ralph, 329.
——— Randle, 331.
Ashley, 43, 299.
Ashmole, Elias, 357.

Aslakeby, John de, 249.
Aspden, John, 38.
Assap, Thos., 136.
Astley, Sir John, 226.
——— Rich., 189, 284, 300, 320.
——— Thos., 282, 302, 316.
Aston, 234.
——— by Stone, 21, 293, 299.
——— Manor, 341, 343, 347.
——— Allen, 189.
——— Edw. (Sir), 18, 121, 169, 284, 285, 319, 321.
——— Hugh de, 309, 310.
——— John, 74, 278, 282, 283, 297, 309, 317, 318, 319.
——— John (Sir), 7.
——— Robt., 282, 326, 329.
——— Roger de, 234, 281, 309, 311, 314.
——— Thos., 280, 312, 313, 330, 331.
——— Walter, Lord, 342, 352.
——— ——— (Sir), 285, 324, 327, 352.
——— Sir Willoughby, 354.
Atkins, Ralph, 53.
Atkinson, Geoffrey, 40.
——— John, 292.
Audley, 50, 51, 53, 55, 59, 60, 61, 141, 201, 217, 226, 255, 289.
——— George Touchet, Lord, 61.
——— H., 214.
——— Henry de, 240, 275.
——— Hugh de, 233, 277, 304.
——— James de, Lord of Heleigh, 246, 276, 308, 310, 314, 317.
——— Sir James de, of Stratton, 347.
——— John, 59, 60, 316.
——— ——— Touchet, Lord, 25, 50, 59, 61, 203, 313, 362.
——— Nich. de, 312.
——— Rich., 349.
——— Thos., 349.
——— Vicar of, 258.
Audleys, 212, 239.
Austin, Edw., 46.
——— Will., 70, 111.

B.

Babington, Anthony, 192, 194.
——— John, 289.
——— Joyce, 191.
——— Will., 134, 314.
——— ——— Abbot of Merivale, 133.
——— Zacchary, 205, 289, 290, 326, 328, 336.
Bache, John, 92, 97, 101, 116.
——— Will., 151.
Baddeley, John, 159.
——— Will., 17.
Bafford, Thos., 182.
Bagguley, Will., 144, 147.
Bagnall, 223, 290.
——— Dudley, 353.
——— Henry, 353.
——— Hugh, 30, 37.
——— Humphrey, 79.
——— John, 9, 12, 30, 31.
——— ——— Nock, 293.
——— Ralph, Sir, 77, 195, 238, 284, 323, 324, 351.
——— Rich., 289, 356.
——— Thos., 293, 336.
Bagot, Edw., Sir, 336, 338, 342, 344.
——— Harvey, Sir, 286, 329, 331.
——— John, 280, 281, 298, 309, 313, 314, 355, 365.
——— Lewis, Sir, 5, 6, 7, 17, 283, 318, 319.
——— Mr., 354.
——— Rich., 212, 282, 285, 316, 325.
——— Robt., 212.
——— Thos., 298.
——— Walter, Sir, 285, 286, 326, 328, 339, 340, 343, 357.
——— ——— Wagstaffe, Sir, 226.
——— Will., 336.
——— ——— of the Hyde, 276.
Bagots, 239.
Bagridge Wood, 335.
Bagshaw, Edw., 198, 199.
——— Ensign, 358.
——— Will., 197.
Bailly, Roger, 161.
——— Thos., 72, 73.
Baily, John, 161.
——— Rich., 182, 183.
——— Will., 10.
Bainbridge, Thos., 292.
Bake, Will., 220.
Baker, Edw., priest, 107, 108.
Baldwin, Chas., of Aqualate, 290.
Banastre, Will., 233, 297, 298, 311.
Bann, John, 121, 122, 123.
Bapthorpe, Robt., 280, 313.
Barber, Edw., 301.
Barbour, John, 299.
——— Leicester, 333, 334, 336.
——— Rich., 302.
——— Will., 227.
Bardulf, Hugh, 274.
Barefoot, Thos., 227.
Baret, Rich., 78.
Barington, Philip de, 308.
Barkely, Thos. de, 347.
Barker, Gilbert, 194.
——— John, 293.
Barlaston, 251, 258, 293.
Barlow, Rich., 39.
——— Thos., 144.
——— Will., 168, 169.
Barnfield, Robt., 136, 137.
Barnley, John, 128, 151, 152.
——— Thos., 73.
——— Will., 128, 151, 152.

Barnsley, Will., 302.
Barons, Stephen, 216.
Barr, Great, 291, 293.
——— Perry, 291.
——— Rich., 67.
Barrett, Nath., 291.
Barry, Rich., 70, 91, 97, 101, 111, 116.
Barton.
——— Nathaniel, 336.
——— Ralph, 112.
——— -under-Needwood, 16, 222, 247, 258, 290, 336.
Baskerville, Humphrey, 119.
Basset, Eliz., 331.
——— Francis, 320.
——— John, 346, 347.
——— ——— of Cheadle, 279, 312.
——— Ralph, of Cheadle, 281.
——— ——— of Drayton, 213, 231, 233, 276, 303, 304, 305, 308, 309, 310, 312, 346, 347.
——— ——— of Sapecot, 231, 346.
——— ——— of Weledon, 249, 346.
——— Richard, 346.
——— Robt., 346.
——— of Sapecot, Simon, son of Ralph, 253.
——— Thos., 282, 346.
——— Will., Sir, 282, 284, 285, 317, 318, 319, 321, 325, 326.
Bassets, 239.
Baswich, 348.
Batch, Will., 288.
Batchacre, 291.
Bate, Robt., 151.
——— Thos., 299.
——— Will., 9, 202.
Bateman, John, 292.
Bath, Eliz., Countess of, 141.
Baxter, John, 129.
——— Reynold, 4.
Bayley, Edw., 127.
——— Rich., 146, 185, 186.
——— Robt., 48.
——— Roger, 317.
——— Thos., 74.
——— Weston, 289.
Bayne, Hector, 138.
Bealknap, Robt., 312, and *see* Belknap.
Beardmore, George, 302.
——— Robt., 150.
Beauchamp, Stephen de, 274.
Beaudesert, 255, 348, 358.
Beaufo, Rich., 299.
Beaumont, Henry, 282.
——— ——— de, 213.
——— John, 3.
Beckett, Will., 108.
Beech, 150.
——— Jas., 292.
——— Ralph, 231.
Beek, Nich. de, 279, 309, 311, 347.
——— Robt. le, of Tean, 250, 251.
Beeston, 198.
Beley, Robt., 167.
Belknap, Sir Edw., 26, *and see* Bealknap.
Bell, George, 63, 68.
——— Robt., 140.
Bellott, John, 287.
——— Thos., 288.
Bellyfield, John, 257, 258.
Belson, John, 176.
Bendie, Will., 336.
Bennett, Henry, 14.
——— Will., 70, 113, 114.
Benson, Doctor, 205, 206.
Bentley, 298.
——— Hugh, 9, 10.
——— Ralph, 30.
——— Thos., 218.
——— Will., 190.
Berdehulme Mill, 350.
Beresford, 30.
——— Chris., 79.
——— Edmund de, 249.
——— Edw., 302.
——— Hugh, 79.
——— Humphrey, 79.
——— John, 79, 300.
——— Rich., 351.
Bernard, Master Robt., 251.
Berry, Rich., 191.
Berston, John, 40.
Bertram, John, 129, 131, 132, 242.
Bescot, 138.
Betley, 42, 142, 255, 291, 349.
Betton, Will., 43.
Beysin, Walter de, 277.
Biana by Eccleshall, 289, 290.
Biddulph, 121, 294, 345.
——— Fras., 325.
——— John, 298.
——— Michael (Sir), 334, 343.
——— Sir Nich. Whelock, vicar of, 121.
——— Rich., 44, 75, 123, 135, 136, 161, 163, 164, 301, 322.
——— Roger, 219.
——— Sir Theophilus, 339, 340.
——— Thomas, 26, 165, 168, 169.
Bignall End, 201, 256, 257.
Bikford, Henry, 254.
——— John, 154.
Billington, 222, 223, 249.
Bilston, 110, 113.
Bingham, Rich., 315, 317.
Birch, George, 292.
——— Edward, 341.
——— Rich., 183, 197, 198, 200, 201.
——— Sampson, 358.
——— Thos., 13, 289.
Birchall, Rich., 178.
Birchemour, Thos., 247.
Birches, Thos., 10.
Bird, Edw., 290, 358.

Birks, Thos., 50, 55, 56, 62.
Birmingham, Fulk de, 247.
——— Will. de, 308.
Bishop, Henry, 250.
——— Will., 197.
Bishton, 21, 291.
Blaby, John de, 253.
Blackborne, Will., 157, 192, 194.
Blackshaw, Randolph, 191.
Blackwall, Antony, 144.
Blackwood, 26.
Blagg, Mary, 356.
Blakelaw, Thos., 43.
Blakeman, John, 172, 173.
Blakewall, Anthony, 147.
Blike, Gyle, 67.
Blithfield, Thos., parson of, 252.
Blithford, 346.
Blokmerfield, 350.
Bloore (Bloor), John, 62.
——— Ralph, 166.
——— Will., 182, 183, 185, 187.
Blore-in-Hales, 255.
——— Will., 145.
Blorton, Stephen de, 250.
Blount (Blunt), Christopher, Sir, 324, 326.
——— George (Sir), 76, 77, 169, 284, 285, 323, 324, 350, 353.
——— Humphrey, 281, 299.
——— John (Sir), 19, 76, 233, 235, 278, 284, 313, 318, 320.
——— ——— Colonel, 353.
——— ——— of Mountjoy, 316.
——— pedigree, 18.
——— Thos., 17, 232, 281, 318, 320.
——— Walter, 153, 232, 312, 320.
——— ——— of Mountjoy, 316.
——— Will., Lord Mountjoy, 319.
Blount's Hall, 153, 320.
Bloxwich, 83, 90, 101.
Blue, Henry, 178.
Blymhill, 234, 258.
Bobbington, 71.
——— Church, 74.
Bodenham, Roger de, 250.
Boiser, John, 58.
Bold, Rich., 164.
Bolde, Will., 234.
Boleyn (Bullein), George, Dean of Lichfield, 205, 335.
——— Lawr., 257.
Bolingbroke, Bertram, 233.
Bolland, Edw., 144.
Boller, Will., 159.
Bolly, Thos., 194.
Bolt, Thos., parson of Checkley, 76.
Bonet, John, 234, 275.
Bonhead, John, 47.
Booth, Hugh, 4.
——— John, 171–3.
Borton, *see* Burton.
Bosvile, Chas., 290.
Bosvile, Robt., 289.
Botetourt, Thos. de, 252.
Botiller, Gawain le, 364, 365.
——— John le, 247.
——— Ralph le, 305, 308, 309.
——— Will. le, 308, 364.
——— of Wem, 212.
——— ——— pedigree, 366.
Botteslow, 223.
Bottom in Cheddleton, 253.
Boughey, Christopher, 19.
——— Hugh, 19, 59.
——— Humphrey, 18, 19.
——— John, 203.
——— Sebastian, 18.
——— Thos., 55, 203, 258.
——— Thos. Fletcher, Sir, 292, 294.
——— Will., 55, 62, 258.
Bould, 298.
Boulton, Matthew, 291.
Bourchier, Anthony, 349.
——— Henry, 233.
Bourne, John, 22, 226.
——— Rich., 55.
Bowes, George, 334.
——— John, 191, 285, 286.
——— ——— Sir, 324, 327.
Bowland, Edw., 147.
Bowler, John, 171, 172, 173.
Bowlman, Rich., 79.
Bowman, Rich., 145, 183.
——— Robt., 185, 186.
Bowode, Robt. de, 310.
Bowring, John, 146, 186.
——— Ralph, 348.
Bowyer, John, 133, 287, 288, 289, 325, 326, 334.
——— ——— Sir, 328, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 358.
——— Thos., 359.
——— Will. (Sir), 286, 328, 331, 343, 360.
Boydyn, Thos., 247.
Boyle, Chas., Lord Clifford of Tamworth, 357.
Boyleshall, 256, 257.
Braband, Robt., 63.
Brabazon, Edw., 286.
——— John, 241.
Brabyn, Robt., 68.
Braddock, Fras., of Adbaston, 19, 20.
——— John, 227, 318.
Bradhed, John, 196.
Bradley by Stafford, 170, 172, 222, 223, 226.
——— John, 89, 141.
——— Thos., 65, 335.
Bradney, Thos., 290.
Bradnop, 10, 220, 350.
Bradshaw, Nich., 212, 242, 312, 313.
——— Robt., 242.
——— Thrustan, 11.

Bradwall, 162, 346.
——— Chris., 162, 163, 164, 165.
——— Thos., 165, 168, 169.
——— Will., 10, 13.
Bramshall, 39, 217, 247.
Brassington, Will., 9, 32, 34.
Brasyare, Roger, 107, 108.
Braunston, 348.
Bréauté, Fulk de, 234.
Brereton, Henry, 40, 57, 350.
——— John, 10, 11, 12, 30, 355.
——— Randolph, 282.
——— ——— Sir, 29, 87.
——— Will. (Sir), 11, 12, 25, 29, 119, 122, 331, 332, 333, 351.
Brett, Edw., 176, 335, 336.
Brewood, 24, 216, 226, 254.
——— White Nuns of, 216.
Bridge, Maj.-Gen. Tobias, 336.
——— ——— Rodney, 343.
Bridgeford, 329, 338.
——— Great, 69.
——— Little, 86.
Bridgeman, Sir Orlando, 355, 356.
Bridges, George, 341.
Briggs, Oliver, 157.
Brikehull, John de, parson of Standon, 253.
Brindley, George, 335, 337.
——— John, 177.
Briscoe, Rich. Holt, 293.
Brodhead, Humphrey, 197.
Broke, Henry (Harry), 29, 34, 46, 47, 62, 143, 166.
——— John, 71.
——— Michael, 72.
——— Raphe, 71, 72, 74.
——— Rich., 108, 114.
Bromhale, 254.
Bromley, Abbot's, 16, 226, 291, 362.
——— Bagot's, 250.
——— Gerrard's, 180, 242.
——— King's, 13, 292, 300.
——— Edw., Sir, 327.
——— George, 320.
——— John, 133.
——— Rich., 141, 142.
——— Roger de, 347.
——— Steph., 350.
——— Thos., Sir, 321, 352.
——— Will. de, 275.
Bromwich, Thos., 28.
——— West, 181, 226, 292, 293, 335.
Bronley, John, 10.
Brooke, Leigh, 289, *and see* Broke.
Broomfield, Roger, 126.
Broseley, Warin de, 362.
——— Will. de, 362.
Brough, Edw., 358.
——— John, 49.
——— Thos., 30.
Broughton, Brian (Sir), 287, 338, 340, 343, 354, 358.
Broughton, Edmund, 359.
——— Edw., 333, 334, 357.
——— Mr., 359.
——— Peter, 329.
——— Rich., 353.
——— Robt., Col., 355.
——— Thos. (Sir), 286, 291, 332, 343, 356.
Brount, John, 26.
——— Thos., 167.
Brown of Caverswall, Edw., 289.
——— Thos., 4.
Browne, Sam, 333.
——— Thos., 36, 37, 38, 49.
Brownhills, 293.
Brudenell, Robt., 320.
Brumpton, John de, 311.
Brun, Robt., 296.
Bryan, Will., parson of Tattenhall, 251.
Buckley, Rich., 166.
——— Will., 166.
Bucknall, 226, 345.
——— Sir Will., 356.
Buckston, Thos., 76.
Bugges, Henry, 218.
Bulkley, Humphrey, 10, 12.
Buller, Edw., 293.
Bullock, John, of Leek, 49.
Bulwardyn, William, 73.
Burche, Thos., 69.
Burdett, Sir John, 15.
Burgess, John, 329.
Burgh, Edw., 139.
——— Henry de, 249.
——— Rich. de, 249.
Burgiloun, Robt., 312.
Burglin, Thos., 28.
Burgo, Will. de, 252.
Burnel, Hugh, 313.
Burrows, Humphrey, 178.
Burslem, John, 141, 142.
——— Oliver, 142.
——— Thos., 141, 142, 159, 336.
Burt, John Heyliger, 292.
Burton, Edmund de, 297.
——— John, 80, 81, 126, 161, 162.
——— Michael, 138, 139.
———-on-Trent, 16, 222, 226, 348.
——— ——— Abbot of, 362.
——— John Hambury, Abbot of, 233.
——— Will., Abbot of, 43, 249, 250.
Burwey, John de, 250.
Bury, Lawrence, 124.
Busby, Edw., 290.
Bushbury (Bysseburi), 68, 339, 341.
——— Henry de, 249, 278.
——— Hugh, Rector of, 249.
Busseby, Walter de, 251.
Bussey, Hugh de, 233.
Butler, John, 70.

Butterton by Newcastle, 291.
——— in the Moors, 197, 348, 350.
——— Rich., 133.
Button, Will., 4.
Byllyngsley, Will., 73.
Byng, James, 91, 92, 96, 97, 98, 100, 106, 109, 114, 115, 116, 117.
Byrcholte, 351.
Byrding, Robt. 178.
Byrkley Lodge, 292.
Byrons, Nicholas, 256.

C.

Cadiou, John, 253.
Caldwall, Margery de, 267.
Callaway, Wm., 137, 138.
Callingwood, 222, 247.
Calthorpe, Augustus Cholmondeley Gough, 293.
Calton, 223.
Calwich Priory, 322.
Campbell, Colin Minton, 293.
Cannock, 44, 117, 217, 223, 226, 232, 255, 292, 348.
——— Adam de, 250.
Cantrell, James, 146.
——— Thos., 45, 197.
Canwell, 291, 294.
Cardy, Rich., 54, 56.
Carey, Robt., Earl of Monmouth, 330.
——— Will, 392.
Carlisle, Edmund, 156.
Carmount, 242.
Carr, Sir Robt., 340.
Carter, Abraham, 356.
——— James, 11.
——— Reginald, 84.
Cartlage, John, 186, 348.
——— Raphe, 146.
Cartwright, Elice, 151.
——— Thos., 293.
Cassey, Will., 32, 34.
Castell, George, 233.
Casterne, 79, 182, 332, 339, 348.
Castlecliff, 219.
Castlehay Park, 239.
Cavendish, Will., Earl of Newcastle, 331.
Caverswall, 36, 331.
——— Peter, 279.
——— Rich. de, 231.
——— Will. de, 276.
Cawardyn, David, 189.
——— Geoffrey, 189.
——— John, 300.
——— Rich., 189.
Cawsey, John, 9.
Chadwick, Charles, 289, 290.
Chadwick, Jas., 294.
——— John, 302.
Challoner, Geoffrey, 9, 12.
Chalmer, John, 144.
Chalton, Hugh, 43.
Chambre, Will. del, 219.
Chance, James Timmins, 293.
Chancellor, Robert, 203.
Chancery Proceedings, 224.
——— ——— List of Early, 235.
——— Rolls, List of, 247.
Chandos, Roger, 297.
Chapman, John, 86.
Charitable uses, List of, 225.
Charles, Rowland, 168.
Chartley, 357.
Chatcull (? Chatwall), 82, 294.
Chatterton, John, 134.
Chaucumb, Hugh de, 274.
Chaumbre, Rich. de la, parson of Leigh, 250.
Cheadle-Basset, 346, 362.
Chebsey, 140, 234.
Checkley, 14, 76, 77, 196, 292.
——— Thos., Bolt, parson of, 76.
Cheddleton, 9, 30, 31, 33, 143, 167, 247, 362.
——— Church of, 32.
——— Grange, 350.
——— Park, 33.
Cherlton, Robt., 313.
Cheslyn Haye, 117, 118.
Chester, Abbot of, 220.
——— Ranulph, Earl of, 275.
Chesterton, 55, 59, 255.
Cheswardine, 20, 347.
Chetwood, James, 119.
——— John (Sir), 288, 289, 334, 342, 343.
——— ——— Touchet, 290.
Chetwynd, Adam de, 365.
——— John, 213, 235, 285, 289, 309, 325, 343.
——— Philip, 281.
——— Thos., 170, 287, 322, 323.
——— Viscount, 214.
——— Walter (Sir), 286, 287, 288, 325, 328, 338, 341, 358.
——— Will. (Sir), 7, 8, 28, 29, 143, 167, 213, 214, 249, 280, 283, 284, 285, 301, 312, 326, 328, 338, 341, 351, 354.
Cheygny, Roger de, 277.
Child, Smith, 293.
Chillington, 136, 254.
Chiltenham, Will. de, 309.
Chilton, Thos., 129.
Chipnall, 119.
Choke, Rich., 315, 317.
Cholmondeley (Sir), Rich., 21, 118.
Chomley, John, 68, 78, 105, 106, 109, 112.
Chorley, 343.

Chorlton (Chalton), 119.
Churnet River, 350.
Clare, Lewis, 73, 74.
Clarel, Master John, Archdeacon of Stafford, 251.
Clark, Samuel, 290.
Claverley, Alexander de, 274.
Claybroke, Ralph, 206.
Clayton, 21, 218.
——— Eliz., 202.
——— Griffith, 80.
——— Gryffyn, 223.
——— Hall, 293.
——— John, 34A.
——— Parva, 223.
——— Robt., 80, 81, 82.
——— Stephen, 81.
——— Thos., 40, 80, 81, 82.
Clemson, Roger, 124.
——— Thos., 73.
Clent, 158.
Clerk, Humphrey, 187.
——— Rich., 185.
——— Roger, 24.
——— Thos., 128.
——— Will., 9, 185.
Cliff, Thos., 178.
——— Will., 21.
Clifton Camville, 5, 8, 189, 293.
——— Gervase, 317.
——— Will. de, 250.
Clough Hall, 292.
Clowes, Katherine, 12.
——— Lawrence, 10, 13, 350.
——— Peter, 350.
——— Rich., 164.
——— Robt., 4.
——— Thos., 350.
Clulowe, Will., 351.
Cocks, Rich., 124.
Cokeyn, Sir Thos., 185.
Colban, Thos,, 70, 115.
Colclough, Anthony, 355.
——— B., of Ellenhall, 231.
——— Dudley, 355.
——— John, 219, 242.
——— Will., 235, 336.
Cole, Rich., 206.
——— Timothy, 355.
Colemon, Henry, 250.
Coleson, Will., 279.
Coley Hall, 136.
Colles, John, 355.
Collins, Will., 194.
Colmore, John, 160.
Colton, 16, 17, 253.
——— Church, 215.
——— Henry de, 253.
Colwich, 294, 299.
——— Prebend of, 251.
——— Will., 299.
Combe, John, 242.
Comberford, Francis, 335, 336.
Comberford, Humphrey, 157, 178.
——— John, 318.
——— Richard, 250.
——— Thos., 300.
——— Will., 286, 315, 316.
Combridge, 223.
Compton, 67, 129.
Congelire, Henry de, 250.
Congreve, Rich., 337, 338, 341.
——— Thos., 302.
Cons, Thos., 250.
Consall, 30, 234, 247.
Constable, Marmaduke, 282.
Conyngsby, Humphrey, 44, 349.
Cooper, John, chaplain, 34.
——— (Sir) Rich. Powell, 294.
Cootes, John, 286.
Cope, John, chaplain, 199.
——— Jonathan, 287, 288.
Copeland, Rich. Pirie, 294.
Copestake, Will., 191.
Corbet, Peter, 305.
——— Robt., 142, 277.
——— Roger, 235.
——— Thos., 13, 276, 277.
Cordell, Rich., 157.
Corden, Hugh, 167.
——— Robt., 190.
Cornwall, Brian de, 279.
Corpson, Will., 194, 195.
Cotes by Eccleshall, 298, 299.
——— Humphrey, 235, 298, 299.
——— John, 252, 282, 299.
——— Simon, 18.
Coton, Christiana, 85.
——— Hugh, 85.
——— -in-the-Clay, *see* below.
——— John, of Coton, 58.
——— ——— of Ridware, 282.
——— Thos., 85, 298, 299.
——— -under-Needwood, 322, 323, 325, 362.
Cotton, Chas., 338, 341.
——— Humphrey, 85, 323.
——— John, 58, 85, 121, 282.
——— Rich., 58, 140.
——— Rowland, 229, 287, 336, 338, 343.
——— Will., 288, 332, 344.
Course, Robt., 156.
Court of Requests, Proceedings in the, 244.
Court Rolls, List and Index of, 221.
Coven, Ralph de, 296.
Cowall, Henry, 55, 59, 60.
Cowan, Thos., 111.
Cowdale, John, 176.
Cowley, 249.
——— Edmund, 107.
——— Thos., 112.
Cowper, Hugh, 156.
——— John, 114, 166.
——— ——— Sir, 35.

Cowper, Robt., 141, 142.
——— Will., 98, 101, 112, 116.
Cox, John, 13.
Coyney, John, 184, 322, 323.
——— Robt., 37, 38, 234, 299.
——— Walter, 37.
Cradley, John, 3.
Cradock, George, 331.
——— John, 289.
——— Rich., 359.
Crakeford, Will. de, 216.
Crakemarsh, 39, 336.
Cresswell, Rich., 288.
——— Thos. de, 274.
——— Will., 202.
Cricheley, Thos., 117, 118.
Crimes, Henry, 198, 199.
——— John, 197, 200.
Critchlow, Raphe, 197.
——— Will., 79.
Crockett, Henry, 292.
——— Robt., 56.
——— Thos., 256.
Croft, Hugh de, 277.
Crofton, 292.
Crompton, Rich., 325.
——— Thos. (Sir), 289, 328, 329, 331, 332, 334.
——— Will., 285, 326, 329, 339.
Cromwell, Thos. Lord, 99, 319, 327, 330, 331.
——— John de, 347.
Crophull, Ralph de, 277.
Cross, James, 157, 158.
——— Thos., 148.
——— Will., 14.
Crosway, John, 73.
Crowborow, 26.
Crowther, Christopher, 48, 78, 167.
——— Philip, 48, 78.
Croxden Abbey, 301, 348.
Croxton, Ralph, 120.
Cruche, Ralph, 19, 20.
Cryster, Thos., 116.
Cumberford, *see* Comberford.
Cumbermere, Nich., Abbot of, 250.
Curtis, John, 19.
Cut, Robt., 115.

D.

Da, Ric., of Leek, 40.
Dacre, Wm. de, 250.
Dadelond, Ralph de, 250.
Dale, Hugh, 133.
——— Ric., 351.
——— Robt., 4.
Dalebuin in Ireland, 240.
Danvers, Henry, 335.
Darlaston by Stone, 258, 290, 291.
——— John, 58, 59.
Darwin, George, Vicar of Dilhorne, 57.
Dasshefen, John, 74.
Dasshefen, Richard, 73.
——— Thos., 74.
——— ——— Sir, 73.
——— ——— ——— priest, 72.
Dauncy, Sir John, 27, 134, 135.
Davenport, Hugh, 234, 299.
——— Humphrey, 359.
——— John, 293.
——— Ric., of Ellaston, 290.
——— Thos., 257.
——— Wm., 39, 293.
Davy, Wm. de Tutbury, 252.
Dawkins, John, 36.
Dean, Edward, 167.
Debank, Simon, 291.
Declared Accounts, List and Index of, 213.
Decons, Hugh, 98.
Deepdale, Ric., 126.
Degg, Sir Simon, 340, 343.
Delves, Henry (Sir), 40, 41, 42, 82, 141, 142, 280.
——— John, 234, 280, 281, 282, 298, 309, 311, 312, 313, 316.
Dene, John de, 277.
Denstone, 223, 345.
——— Nicholas de, 250.
Denton, Dr. James, Dean of Lichfield, 19, 319.
Derby, Henry, Earl of, 246, 278.
Derrington in Seighford, 365.
Despencer, Hugh, 275.
——— Thos., Earl of Gloucester, 312.
Destons, Robert, 22, 46, 47, 48.
Dethick, Thos., 234, 280.
Deulacres, 250, 323, 324, 334, 335, 348, 350.
——— Thos. Whitney, Abbot of, 40, 57, 77.
——— Wm. Alban, Abbot of, 10, 57.
Devereux, Sir George, 324, 326.
——— Ric. (Sir), 321, 350.
——— Robt., Earl of Essex, 324, 326, 327, 329, 330, 332, 352.
——— Walter (Lord Ferrers, Earl of Essex), 113, 193, 319, 321–3, 349.
Deville, John, 350.
——— Margery, 54.
Devlin, Ric., 203.
Dickins, John, 344.
Dickinson, Ric., 170, 172.
Digby, George, 330, 331, 338.
——— Lord, 352.
Dilhorn, 293.
——— George Darwin, Vicar of, 57.
Dimsdale, 223, 335, 336.
Dingley, Roger, 3.
Dobson, Thos., 69.
Docwra, Thos., Prior of the Hospitallers, 40.
Dodd, John, of Cloverley, 180.
Doddington, co. Chester, 40.
Doksey, Thos., 159.

Dolman, Stephen, 73.
Dolphin, John, 290, 291.
Donstons, Robt., *see* Destons.
Doughey, Thos., 257.
Doughty, Edwd., 358.
Dove (river), 184.
Dovedale, 144, 145, 147.
Dowler, Roger, 190.
Downes, Edmond, 335.
——— Ric., 98.
——— William, 218.
Drake, John, 178.
——— Thomas, 177.
Drakeford, Ric., 290.
Draycot (in the clay), 222, 239.
——— Anthony, 14, 15.
——— Edward, 181, 185.
——— George, 153.
——— Henry, 349, 355.
——— John (Sir), 14, 15, 29, 167, 234, 283, 311, 319.
——— Philip, 30, 31, 50, 51, 56, 121, 203, 284, 288, 301, 319.
——— ——— Sir, 18, 29, 153, 322, 348, 349.
——— Richard, 29.
——— Roger, 283, 299, 315.
——— William, 14.
Drayton Basset, 177, 206, 258.
Duchy heath, 219.
Ducy, Robt., of Little Aston, 287.
Dudley, 217.
——— Edmund, 318.
——— Sir Edmund Sutton, Lord, 89.
——— Edward Ward, Lord, 343.
——— John (Viscount Lisle, Earl of Warwick, Duke of Northumberland), 89, 102, 155, 171, 176, 284, 319, 321.
——— ——— Sutton, Lord, 233.
——— Richard de, 310, 312.
——— Robt., Earl of Leicester, 324.
Duncombe, Alfred Charles, 294.
Dunne, John, 166.
Dunstall, 222, 293, 294, 297.
Dunston, 294.
Dunsun, Ralph de, 233.
Dunwood, 86.
Durell, John, Dean of Wolverhampton, 359.
Dutton, Adam, 220.
Dycon, Henry, 250.
Dyott, Anthony, 329, 337.
——— Richard, 250, 291, 293, 330, 344.
——— ——— (Sir), 331.
Dyson, Grosvenor, 288.
Dytheryche, Philip, 155.

E.

Eardley, 341.
——— Edw., 335.
——— John, 56, 59, 60.
Easing, 77, 351.
Eaton, Church, 223, 226, 301.
——— Water, 66, 258.
Ebury, Sir Henry, 354.
Eccleshall, 223, 247, 255, 293.
——— Richard de, 232.
Edge, Christopher, 25, 164.
——— Randle, 126, 350.
——— Richard, 165, 168, 169, 350.
——— Timothy, 336.
——— William, 165, 168, 169.
Edgeley, John, 191.
Edingale, 223.
Ednaston, Henry de, 251.
Egerton, Hugh, 55, 56, 256, 282, 316, 318.
——— John (Sir), 28, 30, 33, 143, 283, 300, 319, 326, 328.
——— ——— Earl of Bridgwater, 340.
——— Ralph (Sir), 21, 30, 143, 166, 167, 281, 283, 324.
——— Randle, Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, 12.
——— Randolph, 143.
——— ——— General, 338, 356, 358.
——— Robert, 62.
——— Thomas, 43.
——— William, 10, 11, 12, 33, 166, 167.
Eld, Francis, 288, 291, 292, 344, 358.
Elford, 133, 191, 324, 327, 334.
Eliot, Thos., 74.
Elkstone, 223.
Ellenhall, 46.
Elmhurst, 294, 334.
Endon, 223.
Engleton, 254, 322, 323, 330, 331, 332, 334, 341, 344.
Enson, 164.
Ensor, John, 206.
Envill, 73.
——— Wm., parson of, 251.
——— Wm. Spittle, parson of, 71.
Ercalewe, Wm. de, 278.
Ercall, John de, 296.
Erdeswick, Hugh, 165, 234, 281, 313, 315, 318, 322.
——— Samson, 301.
——— Thomas, 299.
Erdinton, Thomas de, 274, 275.
Escheators' Accounts, 234.
——— for Staffs., 296.
Esing, *see* Easing.
Estrange, Hamo l', 276, 303.
——— ——— son of Fulk l', 347.
——— John l', 234, 275, 276, 347.
——— ——— of Ercal, 277.
Everdon, Thos., 315, 316.
Every, Henry, 344.
——— John, 339, 341.
Eynge, John, 288.
Eyton, Richard, 144, 146.

F.

Fairfax, Guy, 317.
Fairfield, John, 11.
Fauld-in-Hambury, 222, 362.
Faulkener, Warren, 290.
Featherstone, 34, 92, 129.
——— Prebend, 93.
Fenton, 291, 345.
——— John, 9, 227, 228, 229.
——— Lawrence, 257.
——— Ralph, 9, 32.
——— Vivian, 223.
——— Will., 9, 12, 359.
Ferney, John, 185.
Fernyhough, 11.
——— John, 32.
——— Rich., 350.
——— Roger, 77.
Ferrars (Ferrers), 232.
——— Edmund, of Chartley, 314.
——— Humphrey, Sir, 58, 324, 328.
——— John, 195, 310, 355.
——— ——— of Tamworth, 283, 316, 318, 319.
——— Ralph de, 232–3, 310, 312.
——— Robt. de, 246.
——— ——— of Chartley, 312.
——— Thos., of Tamworth, 281.
——— Walter Devereux, Lord, 113, 170, 319.
——— Will., of Chartley, 314.
Finch, Daniel, 340.
——— Will., 356.
Finnemore, Nich., 168.
Fisher, Henry, 335.
Fisherwick, 134, 194.
FitzAlan, Henry, Earl of Arundel, 323.
Fitzherbert, Anthony (Sir), 13, 24, 52, 54, 99, 103, 105–6, 111, 145, 203, 320.
——— John, 35, 297.
——— Nich., 36.
——— Ralph, 320.
——— Thos. (Sir), 284, 292, 320–2.
Fitz Leofwin, Leofwin, 277.
Fitz Philip, John, 234.
FitzPiers, Geoff., 274, 275.
FitzWaleran, Robt., 274.
Fitzwarren, John, Lord, 142.
Fitz William, Will., 319.
——— ——— Earl of Southampton, 319.
Flashbrook, 20, 301.
Fleetwood, John, 284–5, 322.
——— Rich., 286.
Fleming, Henry (Harry), 22, 91, 101, 116.
Fletcher, John, 91, 97, 101, 110, 114, 178.
——— Thos., 66, 70, 93–4, 102, 112–5, 291.
Flint, Thos., 48.
Flode, John, 167.
Flore, Roger, 313, 315.
Florence, John, 190.
Floyer, Matt., 288, 343.
——— Ralph, 291.
——— Rich., 334.
Fofym, Peter, 191.
Foley, Henry John Wentworth Hodgetts, 293.
——— Philip, 343.
——— Robt., 356.
——— The, 357.
——— Thos., 344, 357.
Foljambe, Godfrey, 301, 310, 311.
Ford-in-Onecote, 350, 362.
——— John, 30.
Ford, Raphe, 199.
——— Rich., 30.
——— Thos., 9, 129.
——— Will., 10.
Foreign Accounts, List of, 231.
Forster, Chas. Smith, 293, 294.
——— Peter, 86.
——— Rich., 63, 91.
——— Thos., 17.
Forton, 138.
Foster, Abraham Briggs, 294.
——— Thos., 157.
Foukes, Raphe, 117.
Foulhurst, Robt., 28.
Fowall, Will., 350, 351.
Fowaw, Roger, 49.
Fowke, Edw., 300.
——— John, 302, 329.
——— Roger, 22, 34A, 104, 326, 329.
——— Thos., 288.
——— Will., 34A, 300.
Fowler, Brian, 181, 301, 322–3.
——— Fras., 287.
——— Rich., 290.
——— Thos. Leversage, 291.
——— Will., 194.
Fox, George, 294.
——— Humphrey, 169, 170.
Foxall (Foxhall), John, 74, 107.
——— Rich., 75, 106.
Francis (Fraunceys), Robt., 280, 312–3.
Frankewell, John, 257, 258.
Freford, 160, 291, 293.
Frenchman, John, 199.
Frodsham, Hilary, 144.
——— Will., 313.
Fryth, 10, 351.
Frythsilver, 254.
Fulceysse, Peter, 133.
Furnival, Thos. de, 212, 250–1, 308.
Fyllol, John, 362.
Fyncheden, Will. de, 310.
Fynney, Will., 9, 11, 165, 167.
——— Edw., 32.
Fytton, Sir Edw., 122, 166.

G.

Gallimore, John, 12.
Garmeston, Thos., 23.
——— Will., 23.
Garner, Robt., 20.
Gascoign, Rich., 151, 219.
Gayteford, John, 233.
Gayton, 296.
——— Rich., 28.
Gegge, Thos., of Newport, 311.
Gelye, Robt., 5.
Geme, Henry, 133, 134.
Gemme, John, 133, 134.
Gent, John, 250.
——— Will., 351.
Gerard, Chas., Lord, 337.
——— Gilbert, Lord, 327, 352.
——— ——— Sir, 324, 356.
——— Henry, 6, 7, 8, 9.
——— Peter, 43, 250.
——— Thos., Sir, 180, 325, 326, 327.
Germyns, John, 133.
Gerry, Robt., 253.
Gervis, *see* Jervis.
Gibbis, Thos., 184.
Gibson, Anthony, 202.
——— Rich., 75.
——— Will., of Knutton, 227, 228.
Giffard (Gifford), Chas., 356.
——— Dr., 351.
——— John, Sir, 17, 22, 107-8, 244, 283, 284, 285, 318, 319, 321, 325, 347, 349.
——— ——— Sheriff, 7.
——— Nich., 235.
——— Thos., Sir, 36, 38, 65, 67, 151, 280, 284, 298, 300, 301, 321, 349.
Gilbert, Thos., 242.
——— Walter, 216.
Gildard, Rich., 291.
Gilot, Will., 216.
Girdler, Joseph, 343.
Gloucester, Miles, Earl of, 274.
Glover, Thos., 78.
——— Will., 6.
Gnosall, 23.
——— John, 206.
Godeley, Rich., 258.
Goderede, Will., 315.
Godwin, Peter, 216.
——— Rich., 10.
——— Will., 216.
Good, Robt., 216.
Goodenand, Nich., 197.
Goodier, Henry, 206, 207.
Goodwin, John, Vicar of Ilam, 187–8.
——— Rich., 13.
Goring (Goreing), Henry, 290, 334.
——— Thos., 288.
Gorsbrook, 92, 93.
Gorwey, Will., 98.
Gosling, John, 123.
——— Will., 34, 63, 65, 67.
Gough, Fred., 393.
——— Henry, Sir, 288, 339, 341, 343.
——— Humfrey, 82.
——— John, 291.
——— Rich., 177.
——— Thos., 177.
Grafton, Will., Abbot of Rochester, 124, 125.
Gravesend, Stephen, 205.
Gray, Henry (Harry), 289, 338, 341.
——— John, 340, 341, 343.
——— Reginald, 317 *and see* Grey.
Green, Nich., 113.
——— Randall, 192.
——— Rich., 98.
——— Will., 302.
Greene, Henry, 310.
——— John, 76.
Greenhalgh, Thos., 146.
——— Tristan (Thrustan), 9, 12.
——— Will., 10.
Greenleye, Will. de, 250.
Greensmith, Rich., 184.
Greenway Bank, 292.
——— Thos., 313.
——— Will., 9.
Grendon, 350.
——— Philip de, 279.
——— Robt. de, 276, 278, 279, 296.
Gresley, Anthony, 15.
——— George, Sir, 16, 17, 18, 284, 319, 327.
——— John, Sir, 16, 29, 279, 281, 297, 299, 316, 317.
——— Nigel, Sir, 291.
——— Thos., 15, 16, 281, 283, 285, 313, 325.
——— Will., Sir, 15, 16, 18, 284, 301, 319, 322–3.
Grestak, pannage called, 254.
Grete, Peter de, 252.
Gretton, 26.
Greville (Grevell), Will., 8, 320.
Grey, Edw., 283, 284, 319.
——— ——— Viscount Lisle, 316.
——— Henry, 288, 358.
——— ——— Earl of Kent, 333.
——— ——— of Codnor, 316.
——— John, 285, 325 *and see* Gray.
Griffith, George, Sir, 174, 175, 319, 321, 322, 349.
——— Henry, Sir, 285, 286, 325, 328, 332.
——— John, 234, 281.
——— Thos., 281.
——— Walter, Sir, 29, 282, 319.
——— Will., of Colton, 250.
Grinley, Robt., 194.
Grosvenor, Hammond, 133.
——— John, 34A, 64, 68, 69, 72, 90, 91, 95, 320, 322.

Grosvenor, John, of Morff, 73.
——— Randolph, 132.
——— Walter, 34A.
——— Will., 132.
Grunde, John, 86.
Gryce, Geoffrey, 192.
Grynshall, John, 178.
Gunston, 254.
Gutmundele, Master Nich. de, 251.

H.

Hackett, Sir Andrew, 356.
Hagley, Robt., de, 250.
Hake, John, 39.
Hale, Harry, 73.
——— Thos., 73.
Hales Hall, 291.
——— Rich., 43.
——— Will., 81.
Halesowen, 155.
Halewood, Robt., 40.
Halfhead, Thos., 69.
Hall, Edw., 144, 203.
——— Lieut., 358.
——— Rich., Vicar of Ilam, 187.
——— Robt., 44.
——— Thos., 37, 76.
——— ——— Kirkpatrick, 292.
——— Will., 82, 183, 197, 198, 200.
Halley, Thos., 14, 15.
Halmer, 256.
Halse, John, 255, 315.
Hambury, 222, 239, 335.
——— Henry de, 308.
——— John, Abbot of Burton, 233–5.
——— Robt. de, 297.
Hammersley, John, 30.
——— Robt., 30, 31, 32.
——— Thos., 358.
Hammond, John, 350.
Hampton, Boyce, 235.
——— John, 218, 232, 297, 315.
——— Rich., 216, 312.
——— Will. de, 233.
Hamstead, 292.
Hanchurch, 159, 223, 299.
Hancock, John, 63.
——— Lawr., 203.
——— Thos., 67, 129.
Hand, Hugh, 190.
Hands, Rich., 45.
Handsacre, 224.
——— Chris., 194.
Handsworth, 154.
Hanford, 223.
Hanging Cliff, 184.
Hankford, Rich., 233.
Hanley, 184, 218, 223, 242.
——— Thos., 160.
Hanmer, Randle, 120.
Hanmere, David, 311, 312.
Hanson, Rich., 139.
——— Thos., 186.
Harborne, 155, 234, 289, 294.
Harcourt, John, of Ronton, 25.
——— ——— (Sir), 45, 86, 282, 284, 319, 321–2.
——— Leon., 23, 24.
——— Rich., 301.
——— Robt., 283.
——— Simon (Sir), 86, 285, 323.
——— Thos., 300, 313.
——— Walter, 325.
Harding, John, 66.
——— Will., 137, 138.
Hardy, Sir John, 293.
——— Sir Reginald, 294.
Hare, John, 144.
Hargreaves, Robt., Halstead, 294.
Harlaston, 6, 7, 8, 212, 299.
Harley, Malcolm de, 277.
——— Rich. de, 277.
——— Robt. de, 278.
Harpeleye, Will. de, 250.
Harper (Harpour, Harpur), John, 242, 299, 315, 316.
——— Will., 3, 283, 300, 317, 318.
Harracles, 302.
Harrington, Roger, 67.
Harris, Robt., 96, 106, 107, 108, 109, 129.
——— Thos., 157.
Harrison, Ralph, Randle, 80, 126, 161.
——— Rich., 126.
——— Thos., Major-General, 335, 336.
——— Will. Bealey, 294.
Hartley, John, 293.
Harvey, Thos., 173.
Harwell, John, 43, 202.
——— Will., 43.
Haselhurst, George, 9.
Hashall Manor, 257.
Hassall (Hassells), John, 87, 166.
——— Hugh, 9.
——— Ralph, 129, 350, 351.
——— Rich., 131, 132, 142, 320.
——— Will., 167.
Hastings (Hasteng, Hastanges), Aitrop, 362.
——— John, 305.
——— Will., Lord Hastings, 316.
Hathersage, John, 166.
Hatherton, 291, 292.
Hatrell, Henry, 227, 228, 229.
——— Thos., 229.
Haughton, 249.
——— Humphrey, 281.
——— Margt., 244.
——— Robt. de, 296.
——— Thos. de, 308, 309.
——— Will. of, 312.
Hauterive, Robt. de, 275.
Hawkes, Will., 98.

Hawkins, Henry, 117.
——— Isaac, 344.
Hawksyard, 224.
Haworth, Henry, 144.
Haya, Robt. de, 276.
Hayes, Hugh, 88.
Haywood, 255.
——— Rich. Howard, 293.
Heath Green, 92.
——— House, 292.
——— Hugh, 10, 26.
——— Lawr., 189.
——— Rich., 189.
——— Robt., 294.
——— Thos., 9, 10, 12, 317.
——— Will., 12.
Heathcote, John, 184.
——— ——— Edensor, 291.
——— Mr. G., 359.
Heaton, 57, 291, 350, 351.
——— Hugh, 14, 15.
Heleigh Castle, 50, 56, 59, 62, 201, 203, 257.
Hellier, Samuel, of Woodhouse, 290.
Henley, Ralph, 362.
Henson, Thos., 348.
Herovill, Henry, 298.
Herpey, Will., 148.
Heuster, Thos., 314.
Heveningham, Chris., 301.
——— Walter, 286.
Hewett, John, 41, 42.
——— Thos., 45.
Hexstall, Will., 281, 299.
Heybridge, 293.
Heywood, 329, 336–7, 344, 348.
——— Ralph, 32.
Hickman, Mr. 353.
Hickmans, Rich., 116.
Higginbotham, Rich., 350.
Higgins, John, 66, 67.
Hill, Henry, 356.
——— John, 140, 141, 313, 314.
——— Robt., 299, 300, 316, 318.
——— Roger, 98.
——— Stephen, 159.
——— Will., 136.
Hillar, Roger, parson of Aldridge, 251.
Hillary, Roger, 308, 309.
Hilton, 92, 129, 290, 293, 294, 299.
Himley, 249, 323, 325.
Hinkley, John de, 252, 278, 312.
Hints, 291, 294.
Hipkiss, John, 155, 156.
Hitchcock, Rich. de, 251.
Hitton, Rich., 137.
Hixon, 16.
Hoarcross, 223, 292, 300.
Hocliff in Ilam, 184.
Hodgetts (Hogett), Humph, 289–90.
——— John, of Shut-end, 290–1.
——— Rich., 181.
Hodgetts (Hogett), Thos., 67, 74.
Hodson, Thos., 168.
Hody, John, 315.
——— Will., 318.
Holbeach, Roger, 234.
Holden, John, minstrel, 121.
Holdowghter, Alice, 257.
Hole, John, 166.
Holland, Hugh, 355.
——— John, 127.
——— Robt., 153.
——— Thos. de, 232.
——— Will., 226.
Hollins, John, 9, 12, 31.
——— ——— of Moseley, 30.
——— Philip, 344.
——— Raphe, 30.
——— Thos., 30.
——— Will., 30.
Hollinshead, Francis, 355.
——— Ralph, 4.
Holly Bush, 292.
Holme, Rich., 10.
——— Thos., 48.
——— Will., 87, 144, 146.
Holond, Robt. de, 218.
Holt, Sir Chas., 341, 343.
——— Thos., 320.
Hoo, John, 344.
——— Thos., 291.
Hope, 183.
——— Humph., 202.
——— John, 67, 96, 103, 105–6, 109.
Hopkins, Will., 358.
Hopton, 169, 309, 323, 324.
——— Walter de, 276–7, 365.
Hopwas, 58.
——— Hugh de, 233.
Horderne, Jas., 292.
——— Robt., 4.
Hordlowe in Leek, 350, 351.
Hornby, Gerard, 127.
Horsbrook, 251, 254.
Horsely, Rich., 190.
Horton, 10, 25, 49, 161, 217, 223, 255, 336, 349, 350.
——— Chapel, 168.
——— Haye, 136.
——— John, 163.
——— Roger, 314.
——— Walter, 153.
Horwood, Will., 301, *see* Whorwood.
Hospital, Thos. Docwra, Prior of the, 40, 42.
——— Sir Will. Weston, Prior of the, 41.
Howard, Henry, 327.
——— Sir Will., 330, 331.
Howlatt (Howlett), John, 65, 66, 70, 91, 111, 113, 114, 130–2, 151.
——— Rich., 74.
——— Steph., 128, 151, 152.
Houghton, Rich., 333, 334.

Houghton, Will., 317.
Houndhill, 300.
Hubbeley, *see* Ubberley.
Huddleston, Rich., 191.
Hugford, Robt. de, 242.
——— Will., 298.
Hughes, John, 134.
Hull, Will. del, 277.
Hullockspool in Audley, 256.
Hulme, Will., 77, 350.
Huls, Hugh, 313, 314.
Hulton Abbey, 350.
——— John, Abbot of, 12, 25.
Humphreston, Will., 299.
Hungerford, Sir Edw., 342, 343.
Hunt, George, 290.
——— Will., 180.
Huntbach, John, 45, 160.
——— Rich., 22.
Huntingdon, 253.
Hurst, Henry, 167.
Hurt, Nich., 339.
——— Roger, 332, 334, 335.
Hussey (Husee), Fowke, 290.
——— Phineas, 292.
——— Will., 234.
Hyde, 254.
——— Lawr., 340.
——— Thos., 10.
Hykkan, Thos., 98.
Hynckes, Will., 178.
Hynton, John, 106.
Hywall Hill by Yoxall, 148.

I.

Ilam, 44, 144–7, 182, 292, 348.
——— John Goodwin, vicar of, 187.
——— Rich. Hall, vicar of, 187.
Inge, Theodore Will., 290.
——— Will., 288, 291.
——— ——— Fredk., 294.
——— ——— Philips, 292.
Ingestre, 351.
Inkpen, Rich., 25.
Inquisitions ad quod damnum, list of, 241.
——— post mortem, Index of, 245.
Ipstones, 87.
——— John de, 234, 249, 309, 365.
——— pedigree, 366.
——— Will. de, 364, 365.

J.

Jackson, John, 226.
——— Philip, 334, 335.
——— Robt. 146, 183, 185, 186.
——— Thos., 66, 116.
——— ——— Curate of Wolverhampton, 91, 94, 97, 101, 112.
Jackson, Will., 178.
James, Edmund, 323, 325.
——— Edwd., 301, 302.
——— Humphrey, 108.
Jenkins, John, 129.
Jennings, John, 171, 173.
——— Will., 113, 116.
Jent, Thos., 337.
Jeny, John, 87.
Jervis, E. S. Parker —, 293.
——— John, 289, 290, 291, 356.
——— Mr., 353.
——— Will., 226, 250.
——— Will. Robt. Parker—, 294.
Jesson, Rich., 292.
Jobber, John, 140.
Jodrell, P., 359.
Johnson, John, 192.
——— Rich., 183.
——— Thos., 14.
Jolliffe (Joliffe), Benj., 289.
——— Mr., 354.
——— Thos., 290.
——— Will., 288.
Jolly (Jolley), John, 194, 196.
——— Lieut., 359.
——— Rich., 48.
——— Thos., 288.
——— Will., 287, 333, 334, 335.
Joyce (Joce), Anthony, 192.
——— John, 299.
Jukes, John, 65, 108.
——— Thos., 68, 96, 105, 106, 109, 114.
Jurden, John, 88.
——— Nich., 98, 113, 116.
——— Owen, 68.
Juyn, John, 314, 315.

K.

Kaynton, Will. de, 297.
Keay, Philip, 291.
Keele, 41–2, 81, 176, 218, 292–4, 299, 322.
Keen (Keene), John, 206, 219.
Kemp, Robt., 227.
——— Thos., 185.
Kenrick, John, 302.
Kent, Rich., 13, 14.
——— Thos., 5.
Kibblestone, 294.
——— Will., Trussel of, 251.
Killick, Henry, 293.
King, John, son of Adam le, 253.
Kingsley, 179, 234.
Kingsmill, John, 318.
Kingston, 16, 334, 349.
——— Rich. de, 276.
King's Swinford, 89, 234.
Kinnersley (Kynnersley), Anthony, 326, 329.

Kinnersley (Kynnersley), Clement, 291.
——— Craven, 290.
——— Fras., 329.
——— John, 39, 153, 251.
——— Robt., 5, 6.
——— Thos., 5, 8, 39, 153, 287, 292, 300, 334, 336, 338, 341, 349.
——— (Kinardsey), Will. de, 251.
Kinton, Philip de, 275.
Kinvaston, 113.
Kinver, 217, 223, 226.
Kirketon, Roger de, 311, 312.
Kirkham, Henry, 350.
——— Thos., 72.
Knight, Brian, 158.
——— Edwd., 300.
——— Henry, 27.
——— John, 59, 60, 61.
——— Roger, 27, 28.
Knightley, 294.
——— John, 251, 312–3.
——— ——— de, of Wirleigh, 312.
——— ——— s. of Robt. de, 312.
——— ——— the younger, 312.
——— Rich., 298, 313, 315.
——— Robt. de, 305, 308, 312.
Kniveden, 78.
Knokyn, Thos., 251.
Knovill, Bogo (Bevis) de, 277, 296, 304.
Knutton, 223, 227, 256.
Knypersley, 292, 358.
Kydde, John, 220.
Kylmill, Edwd., 256.
Kynnersley, *see* Kinnersley.
Kyrforth, Will., 48.
Kyrrymore in Brewood, 254.
Kytson, Robt., 43.

L.

Lacock, Ralph de, 233.
Lacy, Hugh de, 240.
Lancashire, Will., 178.
Lancaster, Henry, Earl of, 246.
——— John, 139.
——— List of Records of the Duchy, 237.
Landor, Walter, 289.
Lane, Alice, 96.
——— George, Sir, 354, 356.
——— John, 88, 292, 337, 338, 359.
——— ——— Colonel, 354.
——— Ralph, 88, 359.
——— Rich., 5, 6, 8, 109, 298–9, 313, 315, 355–6.
——— Thos. (Sir), 325, 332, 339, 341, 343, 358–9.
——— Walter, 359.
——— Will., 114.
Lapley, 22, 177, 350.
Laughton, Thos., 329.
Lawley, Fras., Sir, 288, 338, 340, 358.
——— Robt., Sir, 290, 291.
——— Thos., Sir, 343.
Lawton, John, 344.
——— Will., 288.
Lea, Thos., 72.
Leche, Roger, 314.
Lee, John, 299, 309–11.
——— Rich. de la, 251.
——— Robt. atte, 298.
——— Roger de la, 297.
——— Thos., 137, 348.
——— Will., 235, 298, 299, 313, 315.
——— ——— of Aston, 313.
——— ——— of Podmore, 313.
Leek, 10, 11, 12, 40, 48, 49, 135, 223, 242, 290, 291, 336, 350, 351.
——— Raymond, parson of, 251.
——— Will., 9.
Lees, Edwd., 157.
——— Roger, 189, 190.
——— Walter, 190.
Legg, Elizabeth, 356.
——— Will., 355.
Leicester, Robt. Dudley, Earl of, 206.
Leigh, 226, 348.
——— Dods, 250.
——— Edwd., Sir, 285, 325, 328, 332, 334.
——— Henry, 286, 329.
——— James A', Knt., 256.
——— John, 40, 339, 341.
——— ——— Burridge, 290.
——— Philip de, 296.
——— Randle, 201, 251.
——— Rich. de la Chaumbre, parson of, 250.
——— Robt. de, 275.
——— Thos. (Sir), 26, 328.
Leighton, John, 12.
Lenthall, Will., the Speaker, 333.
Levedale, John de, 362.
——— Stephen de, 362.
Leveing, Rich., 336.
Leventhorp, John, 221.
——— Will., 298.
Leverich, John, 251.
Leveson, Edwd., 202, 349.
——— James, 34–5, 63–9, 78, 92, 97–101, 108, 110–1, 115–6, 121, 202, 284, 320.
——— John, 63–4, 90–7, 101–10, 112, 114, 116–7, 128–9, 132, 150, 152, 284, 323, 349.
——— ——— Sir, 328.
——— Nich., 88, 299.
——— Rich. (Sir), 202, 214, 325, 328, 331.
——— Robt., 341, 343.
——— Thos., 34–5, 63–9, 71, 90–101, 106, 108–16, 129–31, 285.
——— Walter, 5, 6, 8, 93, 202, 285, 326.

Leveson, Walter, Sir, 324, 328.
——— Will., 68.
Leveson-Gower, John, Sir, 343.
——— Will., 229, 339, 341, 355, 358.
Levett, John, 293.
——— Theophilus, 292.
Leybourn, John de, 347.
Leycett, Will., 169.
Lichfield, 5, 137, 194, 226, 255, 294, 336.
——— Adomar de, 280, 298, 311–2.
——— Dr. Denton, Dean of, 19, 319.
——— Nich. de, 250.
——— Rich. Street, Canon of, 139.
——— Sheriffs of, 225.
——— Simon de, 311, 312.
Linton, Humphrey, 14.
——— Thos., 13.
Littleover, 292.
Littleton (Lyttleton), Edwd. (Sir), 5, 6, 7, 29, 121, 167, 170, 171, 203, 284, 285, 286, 288, 289, 291, 300, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330–2, 338, 340, 343, 349, 357, 359.
——— ——— Junr., 328.
——— Henry, Sir, 357.
——— John, Sir, of Frankley, 324.
——— Rich., 5, 6, 8, 9, 318, 320.
——— Thos., 235, 316.
——— Walter, Doctor of Laws, 332, 338–9.
——— Will., 235, 335.
Lloyd (Lloyt), John, 161.
——— Louis, 300.
Lodge, Edwd., 121.
Longdon, 302, 348, 357.
Longnor-in-Bradley, 223.
Longton, 223, 264, 291.
Lother, Florence, 181.
Loughtonhouse, Will., 124, 125, 126.
Lovatt, Hugh, 189.
——— John, 258.
——— Thos., 14, 256.
Lovell, Thos., 317, 319.
——— Will., 314.
Lowe, Humphrey, 234, 281, 298.
Lowther, Hugh, 119.
Loxdale, Thos., 356.
Loxley, 8, 16, 222, 251, 291, 300.
Loynton, Roger de, 253.
Luffyngham, John, 151.
Lutley, 72, 74.
——— Philip de, 231, 233, 279, 297.
Lye, Rich., 68.
Lymesy, Peter de, 278.
Lyndelay, Henry de, 251.
Lyne, 218.
Lyneall, Thos., 74.
Lyon, Chas. Walter, 293.
Lyster, George, 121.
Lysways, 294.

M.

Macclesfield, 4, 48, 49.
——— Ralph, of Maer, 132.
Machin, Rich., 227, 231.
Madder, Will., 325.
Maddock, Will., 43.
Madeley-under-Lyme, 46, 48, 56, 223, 226, 258, 328, 333, 354.
——— Alfac, 217, 249, 346.
——— Church, 47.
——— John, 35, 36, 129.
Maer, 226, 293.
——— Ralph Macclesfield of, 132.
Magott, Margt., 257.
Mainwaring, Arthur, Sir, 352.
——— Edwd., 229, 287, 288, 289, 291, 329, 331, 332, 338, 342.
——— ——— Junr., 334.
——— Henry, Capt., 352, 355.
——— Humphrey, 119, 121.
——— Randolph, 118, 120, 121.
——— ——— Sir, 118.
——— Roger, 121.
Malbon, Raphe, 55, 56.
Malkin, Henry, 12.
——— John, 9, 12, 43, 161–5.
——— Rich., 10, 87.
——— Will., 10, 87.
Malton, Robt., 127.
Mander, Chas. Tertius, 294.
Manifold, 184.
Manley, Augustus East, 293.
——— John Shaw, 293.
Maple Hayes, 292, 293, 294.
Mapurley, Jas., 348.
Marchal, *see* Marshall.
Marchington, 189, 222, 258.
——— Henry de, 233.
Marchys, Thos., de, 297.
——— Will. de, 297.
Marescall or Mareschal, *see* Marshall.
Mareye, Nich., 250.
Marham, John de, 249.
Marlow, Robt., 160.
Marmion, Sir Philip, 362.
Marsh (Mershe), John, 291.
——— Ralph, 356.
——— Robt., 300.
Marshall (Marchal or Mareschal), John, 255, 298.
——— Rich., 274.
——— Roger le, canon of Lichfield, 251.
——— Will. le, 216.
Marshalplek, 254.
Marston, Thos., 6, 8.
Martyn, John, 39, 315.
——— Will., 148, 150.
Maskbury, John, 17.
Mason, Lieut., 358.
——— Will., 114.

Massey, Edmund, 55.
——— John, 34.
——— Thos., 21, 86.
Masters, Sir Robt., 328.
Maufras, John, of Lichfield, 251.
Mauvesyn, Robt., 280, 309, 313.
Mayfield (Overmast Matherfield), 253.
Mayre, Thos., Chaplain, 159.
Meadcroft, Robt., 82.
Meaford, 294.
Meir, passage of, 219.
Mellers, Will., 350.
Mellor, John, of Warslowe, 79.
Mercer, John, 177.
Mere, Will. de, 277, 296, 304, 305.
Meredith, Will., 133.
Meriden Common, 350.
Merivale, Will. Babington, Abbot of, 133.
Merrey, Hugh, 163.
Meverell, Eliz., 330.
——— Fras., 144–8, 186, 284, 322.
——— George, 144, 147.
——— John, 184, 281.
——— Nich., 296.
——— Robt., 286, 328.
——— Sampson, 314.
Meynell, Fredk. George Lindley, 294.
——— Hugh de, 347.
——— Hugo Chas., 292.
——— Isaac, 355.
Meyre, Henry, 159.
Middlemore, Robt., 202.
Middleton, John de, 311.
Mills (Mylle), John, 123.
——— Roger, 83, 144–6.
——— Thos., 290.
Milner, Nich., 194, 196.
——— Will., 11.
Milward, Edwd., 155, 156.
——— Henry, 219.
——— Robt., 21, 196, 338.
——— Roger, 22.
——— Thos., 154–6.
——— ——— Sir, 330–1.
Milwich, 335.
Ministers' Accounts, list of, 217, 253.
Minors (Mynors), Chas., 359.
——— H., 214.
——— Hugh, 348.
——— Humphrey, 301.
——— John, 300, 308.
——— R., 214.
——— Thos., 336.
Minshall (Minshull), Edwd., 119.
——— Henry, 43.
Mitchell (Michall), Harry, of Swindon, 75, *and see* Mutchell.
——— Hugh, 10, 13, 169.
——— Rich., 26.
Mitton (Mytton), 222, 223.
——— Edw., 330.
——— John, 283, 302, 320.
Mitton, Will., 43, 281, 282, 316.
Mixne, 10.
Molden, Will., 252.
Molineux, George, 291.
Moll, John, 107.
——— Rob., 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 109.
Monastic lands, 255.
Monckton, Edw., 292.
——— Fras., 294.
Montagu, Edw., Earl of Manchester, 333.
Montfort, Henry de, 362.
——— Peter de, 276.
——— ——— Sir, 362.
Montgomery, Sir John, 36, 38.
——— Nich., 167, 281, 282, 313, 314, 316.
Moore, Will., 293.
More, Henry, 197.
——— John, 68, 76, 138, 139.
——— Randall, 166.
——— Stephen, 139.
——— Thos., 34, 63, 68, 234.
Moreton, *see* Morton.
Morf (Morff), 73.
——— Henry de, 251.
Morris, Rich., 30, 31, 33.
——— Thos., 3.
——— Will., 194.
Mors, Will., 82.
Mort, Rich., 144, 146, 147.
Mortimer, Hugh de, 277.
——— Ralph de, 277.
Morton (Moreton), 16, 222.
——— Ducy, 344.
——— Edwd., 341.
——— Loftus Balfour, 294.
——— Matt., 301, 330–2, 334.
——— ——— Ducie, 289.
——— Thos., 65, 90, 301, 320, 322–3.
——— Will., 122, 185.
Moseley (Mosley), 292, 294.
——— Edwd., 287, 360.
——— Humphrey, 202.
——— Nich., 72–4, 356.
——— Oswald (Sir), 289, 292, 294.
——— Sir Tonman, 293.
——— Walter, 289, 344, 358.
——— ——— Acton, 290.
——— Will., 360.
Moss, Thos., 9.
Mosters, Agnes de, 347.
Motelowe, Henry de, 310.
Mottershaw, Thos., 292.
Mountford, Fras., 301.
——— John, 9.
——— Rich., 77.
——— Robt., 32.
——— Thos., 77.
——— Will., 11, 30, 31.
Mowbray, John, 311.
Muccleston, Adam de, 251.

Much Chatwall, 82.
Munday, Sir John, 59–61.
Mundy, Vincent, 181, 184.
Munemowe, John de, 275.
Murray, Hugh, 162, 164, 165.
Murrhall (Murrall), Will., 289, 290.
Musard, John, 279.
Musden Grange, 184.
Mutchel, Roger, 350.
Mylnes, Roger, 144 *and see* Mills.
Myott, Rich., 26, 169.
——— Will., 26.

N.

Nabbs (Nabs), Thos., 289.
——— Will., 342.
Nap, Lawr., 12.
Narrowdale, 184.
Nechells, 67.
Needham, John, 161, 165.
——— Thos., 79, 356.
Needwood, 238, 247, 348.
——— Forest, 222.
Nevett, Thos., 34A, 63, 68.
Neville, Ralph de, Dean of Lichfield, 240.
——— Thos., 283.
——— ——— of Alton, 313.
Newborough, 223.
Newbridge by Walsall, 92.
Newcastle (-under-Lyme), 80, 126, 159, 217, 218, 219, 220, 223, 226, 227, 238, 247, 291, 334, 336.
——— Bailiffs of, 239, 240.
——— Burgesses of, 212.
——— Ranulph Egerton, Mayor of, 12.
——— St. Catherine's in, 238.
Newhay, 84.
Newport, John, 320.
——— Thos., 312.
——— Will., of Abenale, 280.
Newton Grange, 79.
——— John, 288, 344.
——— Rich., 9, 31.
——— Samuel, 290.
——— Thos., 202.
Nicholls (Nichols), Edwd. Trafford, 292.
——— John, 96, 107, 108.
Nicholson, Henry, chaplain, 186.
Nickyn, John, 5.
Nicson, John, 350.
Noake, Thos., 22.
Noble, Michael, 334, 343.
Noden, Will., 201.
Noel, Capt., 358 (*and see* Nowel).
——— Thos., 234.
——— ——— (fitz Robert fitz), 274.
Norbury, 300, 322, 337, 343.
Noreys, Adam le, 253.
Norman, Rich., 298.
Normansell, Will., 335.
North, Rich., 11.
Northcroft Thos., 247.
Norton-le-Moors, 255, 258.
——— Edwd., 68.
——— Will. de, 249.
——— Woodhouse, 168.
Norwich, 176.
——— Simon de, 233.
Nowell, John, Parson of Swynnerton, 149.
Nunant, Hugh de, 274.
——— Robt. de, 274.

O.

Oaken Hall, 291.
Oaklands, 293.
Oakley, 191.
Offley, High, 160.
——— John, Sir, 286, 287, 288, 328, 330, 354, 358.
Offlow, hundred of, 192.
Okeover, 348.
——— Edwd. Walhouse, 291.
——— Haughton Farmer, 292.
——— Hugh de, 276.
——— Humphrey, 182, 330, 331.
——— Philip, 285, 325, 329.
——— Ralph, 182, 186, 283, 285, 301, 323.
——— Roger de, 251.
——— Rowland, Sir, 289, 338, 340–1, 343.
——— Thos. 289.
Olcot, Edwd., 54, 56.
——— Henry, 51.
——— John, 51, 53, 55.
——— Rich., 50–6, 201.
Olde, Sir John, 350.
Oldfield, John, 189.
Oliver, Edwd., 108, 109.
——— Harry, 195, 196.
——— John, 145, 183.
——— Rich., 105, 106, 110.
Olliver, Thos., 226.
Orme, Capt., 358.
——— Edwd., 227, 229.
——— Rowland, 194.
Orslow, 223, 329.
Osbernes, Rich., 252.
Osborn, Robt., 23, 24.
Oteley, John, 301, 322, 323.
Ottye, Will., 174, 175.
Overton in Biddulph, 75.
Owdeby, Will., 299.
Oxeleye, Luke de, 249.

P.

Packington (Pakyngton), 127, 258.
——— John (Sir), 320–1.
Paget, Barony, 247.
——— Henry, 343.
——— ——— Lord, 323.
——— Thos., 158.
——— ——— Lord, 324.
——— Will., Lord, 321–2, 327, 330, 331, 337, 340–3, 348.
Pakeman, Will., 86.
Palmer, Robt., 348.
——— Thos., 5.
——— Will., 140, 166.
Pandolf, Will., 218.
Paramore, Rich., 206.
Pargiter, Philip, 344.
Parker, George, 332, 338, 344.
——— John, 59, 60, 96, 103, 106, 107, 258.
——— John le, of Rolleston, 251.
——— Nich., 151, 152.
——— Rich., 256.
——— Robt., 126, 292.
——— ——— of Caverswall, 38.
——— Thos., 329.
——— ——— Hawe, 292.
——— Will., 339, 341, 343, 358.
Parkes, Edmund, 138.
——— Humphrey, 138.
——— John, 14.
——— Robt., 180.
——— Thos., 286.
——— Will., 138, 139, 173.
Parkhall, in Caverswall, 291–2, 338–9, 341, 343.
——— in Leigh, 326, 335, 338, 341.
Parkyn, Henry, 169.
Partridge (Partrich), Thos., 13, 24, 88, 300, 320.
Pason, Rich., 21.
Patrica, Robt. de, 251.
Patshull, 247, 292, 300.
Pattingham, 124, 217, 255.
——— church of, 244.
Pauncefoot ****, 10.
Payn, Nich. 76.
——— Rich., 247.
Paynsley, 31, 299.
Peacock, Rich., 220.
Peake, Thos., 42, 81, 82.
Pearson, Walter, 92, 97, 99, 100, 110.
Peatswood, 292.
Peers, Rich., 191.
Peirpoint, Jervais, 343.
Pendeford, 291.
Pendrill, Rich., 356.
Penebrug, Fulk de, 347.
Penkhull, 21, 218, 219, 223.
Penkridge, 66, 91, 101, 234.
Penn, 66, 151, 152, 154, 290, 293.
Penn, Nether, 250.
——— Over, 128.
Pennell, Thos., 194.
Penson, Roger, 5, 90, 98–9, 101, 116–7.
——— Will., 117, 118.
Percy, Henry, 233.
Perlee, Walter, 311.
Perry Barr, 27, 28, 223, 255, 293, 325, 328, 362.
——— Fredk. Chas., 294.
——— Hall, 326.
——— Humphrey, 129.
——— John de, 252.
——— Will., 97, 100.
——— ——— son of Rich. de, 252.
Persehouse, John, 302, 338, 341.
——— Peter, 344.
——— Thos., 67.
Personosone, Thos., 365.
Perton, John de, 279, 297, 311.
——— Will. de, 296.
Peshall (Pershall, Perscal), Adam de, 232, 278, 279, 312.
——— Hugh, 283, 316–7.
——— ——— de, 251.
——— ——— Sir, 76.
——— Humphrey, 282, 316.
——— John, 286, 320, 322, 323, 344, 349.
——— Rich., 278, 281, 312.
——— Thos. (Sir), 286, 343.
——— Will., 220.
Petit (Petytt), John, 140, 141.
Peyto, John de, 297.
Pheysey, *see* Veysey.
Phillips, John Burton, 292.
——— ——— Will., 293.
Piercey, John Edwards, 293.
Pigott, Sir George, 292.
——— Thos., 358.
Pilkington, John, 170.
——— Will., 12.
Pipe (Pype), 309.
——— James de, 311.
——— Roger de, 252.
——— Thos., 106, 109, 110, 308.
Plant, Lawr., 10.
——— Nich., 40, 77.
——— Thos. 227.
——— Will., 351.
Plash, Hugh, 252.
Playford, Thos., 325.
Plea Rolls, Index of, 248.
——— ——— List of, 214.
Podmore, John, 66.
——— Roger, 66.
Pole, John de la, 311–2.
——— Rich. de la, 252, 308–9.
Pollard, Lewis, 320.
Porte, John, 181–8, 200, 348.
——— ——— Sir, 321.
Potter, John, 255.

Powell, Sir Will., 328.
Poynton, Randolph, 80.
Poyzes, Rich., 197.
Prees, Roger, 318.
Preston, John, 313.
——— Philip, 299.
——— Will., 281.
Prestwood, 35, 88, 89, 291, 293, 330, 331.
——— Henry de, 297.
——— Roger, 106, 108, 129.
Price, Arthur, 181.
Prickett, Hugh, 9.
Prideaux, Edmund, 333.
Prymme, Master Robt., 253.
Puys, Henry, 279.
Pydder, Thos., 157.
Pye, Henry John, 293.
Pynner, Will., 201.
Pyott, John, 342.
——— Rich., 286, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 344.
——— Thos., 350.
Pype, *see* Pipe.
Pytte, John, 78.

Q.

Quickshill (Quixhill), 35, 223.

R.

Rabone, John, 152.
Radcliffe, Arthur, 329.
Raines, Henry, 226.
Raisbeck, Humphrey, 4.
Ranescliff, 205.
Ranton, *see* Ronton.
Ratcliff, Will., 48, 49.
Rathbone, Hugh, 166, 348.
Rathby, Hugh, 238.
Ravenshill, 256.
Raymond, Rich., 356.
Reading, Cornelius, 226.
Rede, Rich., 299.
Rentals and Surveys, 246.
Repton, Thos., 63, 68.
Reve, John, 56, 62.
Revesone, Will. le, 216.
Reynolds, Will., 166, 167.
Reynoldson, Rich., 59.
Rice, Thos., 3.
Richard, John, of Grendon, 252.
Richardscote, 222, 223.
Richardson, John, 12.
Ridgway, Thos., 351.
Ridley (Rydley), Rich., 34A, 63–4, 94–6, 104, 106–9, 112, 355.
——— Owen, 94, 95.
Ridware, Hampstall, 54, 223, 250, 298, 299.
——— Mauvesyn, 189, 299, 300.
Ridware, Bernard, 221.
——— ——— Walker, son of Thos. de, 252.
Rivaulx, Peter de, 276.
Robins, John, 11, 12.
——— Will., 290.
Robinson, George, 177, 191.
——— John, 294.
——— Thos., 191, 206, 207.
——— Will., 153, 323.
Robotham, Robt., 337, 338.
Rocester, 125, 223.
——— Abbey, 233, 325, 326, 328.
——— Will., Grafton, Abbot of, 124–5.
Rode, Randall, 85.
——— Thos., 59, 60, 85.
——— Will., 350.
Rogers, Hugh, 46, 47, 48, 166.
——— Rich., 46, 47, 48.
Rolf, Thos., 315.
Rolleston (Rolston), 217, 222, 226, 258, 292–4, 344, 348.
——— Jas., 181.
——— Nich. de Shepeye, parson of, 252.
——— Ralph de, 305.
——— Robt., 233.
——— Will., 108.
Ronton, 25, 45, 300.
——— Thos. Alton, prior of, 25, 45–6.
Roope, Lawr., 166.
Roos, Fras., 160.
Rothwell, Alexander de, 252.
Rownall, 247.
Rowley Regis, 138.
——— near Stafford, 157.
——— Geoff., of Wedgwood, 205.
——— Jas., of Olcott, 204.
——— ——— of Ranescliffe, 204.
——— John, 141, 142.
——— Will., 151, 152.
Royal, Thos., 5, 6.
Rudyard, Anthony, 334, 335.
——— Jas., 344.
——— Ralph, 57, 162, 164–5, 184.
——— Thos., 288, 302, 325, 329, 339, 341, 355.
Rugeley, 226, 255, 290, 348.
——— Priory, 218.
——— Rich., 300.
——— Simon, Colonel, 287, 333–4, 335.
——— ——— de, 278.
——— Thos., 28, 224.
——— Will., 26, 27, 28.
Rushall, 242, 290, 298, 299, 300, 325, 328, 332, 362.
——— Rich., son of Henry de, 253.
——— Will., 242.
Rushton, Jas., 223, 350.
——— Lewis, 70.
——— -Spencer, 223.

Russell, Jesse Watts, 292.
——— John, Earl of Bedford, 320–1.
——— ——— of Lyndon, 75.
——— Laur., 63.
——— Rich., 14.
——— Will., 346.
Ryder, John, 11.
——— Rich., 226.
——— (Rydare), Robt. le, 249.
Rydley, *see* Ridley.
Ryecroft, Will. de, 252.

S.

Sabe, Thos., 196.
Sacheverell, Henry, 183, 184, 187.
Sale, Thos., 178.
Salisbury, Will., Earl of, 275.
Salt, John Stevenson, 292.
——— Sir Thos. Anderson, 294.
Salter, John, 320.
Saltford (Salford), White House of, 158.
——— Will., 65, 70, 96, 107, 108, 110, 111, 130.
Salwey, Humphrey, 235.
——— John, 44, 135.
Sanders, Thos., 336.
Sandon, 165, 234.
Sandwell Priory, 247, 326.
Saredon (Sardon), Alfred, de Little, 252.
——— Great, 117, 118.
——— Little, 118.
Saunders, John, 15, 16.
Savage, Dame Alice, 18.
——— John (Sir), 10, 15, 77, 350, 351.
——— Lawr., 33, 122, 135, 143, 167.
——— Rich., 167.
——— Will., 167.
Savell, Sir Thos., 178.
Sawyer, Thos., 22.
Saye and Seale, Rich., Lord, 327.
Scarisbrick, Rich., 92, 97, 99, 100, 110–3.
Scothay, 46.
Scott, Edwd. Dolman, Sir, 293.
——— John, 291.
——— Rich., 290.
Scrymshire, *see* Skrymshire.
Scutto, John, 22.
Seabridge, 21, 219, 223.
Seabright, Edwd. (Sir), 287, 330–1.
——— Humphrey, 73.
Seckham, Saml. Lipscomb, 294.
Sedgley, 67.
Seighford (Cesteford), 223, 291, 292.
Seisdon, 73, 351.
Selveyn, Roger, 232.
Selyman, Robt., 297.
Sergeant (Serjeant), Thos., 10, 12, 184–5.
Sergeant, Will., 32.
Setman, Rich., 318, 320.
Settadown (Sitdown), Thos., 63, 67.
Setterford, Will., 202.
Shackerstone, John, 190.
Shadwell, Edwd., 301.
Shafton, Ralph, 97, 100.
Shakenhurst, Robt. de, 252.
Shareshill (Shareshull), Robt. de, 311.
——— Will. de, 215, 233, 247, 280, 309, 310, 312.
Sharp (Sharpe), John, 124–6.
Sharples, Thos., 109.
Shaw, The, 292.
——— Ralph, 230.
——— ——— of Burslem, 228.
——— Samuel Pole, 293.
——— Thos., 89.
Sheen, 223.
Sheffield, Sir Robt., 39.
Sheldon, John, 113.
——— Rich., 63, 65.
Shelton, 218, 223.
——— John, 287.
Shenstone, 223, 255, 291, 293–4.
——— Will., vicar of, 252.
Shenton, Rich., 74.
——— Will., 74.
Shepeye, Nich. de, parson of Rolleston, 251–2.
Sheppard, John, 71.
——— Will., 91.
Sherard, John, 144.
——— Thos., 186–8.
——— Will., 10.
Sheratt (Sherratt), Edwd., 185.
——— Thos., 187, 188.
Sherborne, Rich., 255.
Sherholt Park, 239.
Sheriffs, List of, 224.
Sherwin, Humphrey, 190.
——— Rich., 190.
——— Robt., 172.
Shilton, John, 335.
——— Sir Rich., 331.
Shinglehurst, Will., 37.
Shireford, 49.
Shirley, Ralph de, 277, 296.
——— Robt., Lord Ferrers, 339, 340, 342, 357.
Shobnall, 348.
Short, Edwd., 183.
Shredicote, 223, 242.
Shrewsbury, George Talbot, Earl of, 317, 319.
——— John Talbot, Earl of, 314, 316.
Shufflebotham, Lawr., 168.
Silverhill, 293.
Simpson, John, 63, 64.
Skeffington (Skevington), Clotworthy, Visct. Mazarine, 341, 343.
——— John (Sir), 134–5, 286, 332.
——— Sir Rich., 333.

Skeffington, Will., 63, 98, 110, 111, 135, 285, 286, 302, 326, 329.
Skirlawe, Walter, 233.
Skrimshire (Skrymshire), Chas. (Sir), 288, 343.
——— Edwin, 287, 341.
——— Gerrard, 287.
——— Jas., 286, 302, 329.
——— John, 287, 329, 337.
——— Rich., 169.
——— Thos. (Sir), 286, 300–1, 320, 322, 328, 330.
——— Walter, 288.
Slater, Reynold, 122, 123.
Slepe, Will., 298, 313.
Slyne, Robt., 140.
Smallwood, Hugh, 75.
——— John, 28.
Smart, George, 206.
Smith, Jenkin, 22.
——— Jeremiah, of Fenton, 291.
——— John, 302, 348.
——— ——— of Fenton, 292.
——— Raphe, 165.
——— Rich., 144, 164, 204.
——— ——— of Stone, 242.
——— Robt., 55, 62.
——— Roger, 49.
——— Thos., 156, 255.
——— Will., 54, 164, 234, 283, 319.
Sneyd, Edwd., 292.
——— John, 46, 47.
——— ——— of Bishton, 291.
——— R., 358.
——— Ralph, 205, 226, 229, 285–6, 290, 293–4, 325, 328, 331, 343.
——— ——— Junr., 328.
——— Rich., 51, 54–5, 126, 142, 219, 257.
——— Walter, 292.
——— Will., 126, 127, 162–4, 169, 284, 287, 338, 341, 349, 358.
——— ——— Sir, 164, 176, 205, 322, 323.
Soho, 291.
Somenour, Will. le, 250.
Somercote, Thos., 218.
Somerford, 254, 292, 293.
——— Rich. de, 310, 311.
Somerville, Philip de, 234, 252, 305, 308.
Somery, John de, 305.
——— Roger de, 303.
Southwich, 292.
Sowdley, co. Salop, 20.
——— Thos., 20.
Sparrow, John, 291.
——— Will. Mander, 293.
Sparry, Rich., 158, 159.
Spencer, John, 233.
Spever, Thos., 57.
Spicer, Rich., 190.
Spittull, Hugh, 71, 72, 74.
Spittull, Humphrey, 72, 74.
——— John, 72.
——— Rich., 74.
——— Thos., 42.
——— Sir Will., priest of Enfeld, 71, 74.
Spode, Josiah, 293.
Sporier, Rich., 161.
Spott, Wulfric, 362.
Sprag, Thos., 57.
Sprenghose, Roger, 277.
Sprott, Thos., 15, 16.
Spyttull, *see* Spittull.
Sryngfellow, Will., 167.
Stable, John, 6, 7, 8.
Stafford, 6, 223, 226, 232, 239, 258.
——— burgesses of, 241.
——— Commonalty of, 212.
——— Co., ba., 360.
——— Edmund, 233.
——— ——— Earl of, 312, 313.
——— Edw., Duke of Buckingham, 319.
——— ——— Byrd, Town Clerk of, 358.
——— ——— Lord, 324, 327.
——— Gaol, 233.
——— George, 349.
——— Henry, Lord, 127, 169, 319, 321–3, 349.
——— Hervey de, 275.
——— High Steward of, 357.
——— Hugh, Earl of, 310, 311.
——— ——— de, Knt., 242, 313.
——— Humphrey, 159, 279, 280, 314, 349.
——— ——— of Bramshall, 312.
——— ——— Earl of, 217, 314.
——— ——— of Hoke, 280.
——— Jas. de, 234, 347.
——— John (Sir), 231, 309, 311, 359.
——— Master John Clarel, Archdeacon of, 251.
——— Nich. de, 274, 279, 312.
——— Ralph, Earl of, 232, 246, 308–10.
——— Rich. de, 232, 233, 309–10, 312.
——— Robt., Baron of, 274.
——— Rowland, 318, 320.
——— Thos. de, 233, 312.
——— Will. de, 212, 304, 305.
Staffords, 239.
Stalbrok, John de, 252.
Stallington, 293.
Stamford, Edwd., 157, 192, 286.
——— Robt. (Sir), 285, 325.
——— Will., 157.
Standley, *see* Stanley.
Standon, 262, 292.
——— Brian de, 263.
——— John de Brikehull, parson of, 253.

Stanford, Hugh, 298.
——— Robt., 326.
——— (Staunford), Thos., 24.
——— ——— Will., 127.
Stanley, 223.
——— Edwd., 86.
——— Fras., 104.
——— George, 282, 299, 318.
——— Humphrey (Sir), 255, 282, 283, 317.
——— ——— Clerk, 21.
——— Jas., 140.
——— John, 5, 6, 7, 8, 21, 282, 316.
——— Robt. de, 274.
——— Thos., 281.
——— Will., 169.
Stanlowe, Henry, 219.
Stanshope (Stansop), 184, 186, 334, 335, 348.
Stapleton (Harry), Henry, 141, 142.
——— John, 171, 172, 173.
——— Thos., 173.
——— Will., 171, 172.
Star Chamber Proceedings, List of, 236.
Starky, Humphrey, 317, 318.
Starter, Rich., 39.
State Papers, Foreign, List of, 243.
——— ——— List of, 214.
Statfold, 58, 299.
Stedeman, Fras., 129.
——— Robt., 140.
Steele, John, 148.
Stepleton, John, 170.
——— Roger, 10.
Sterey (Sterry), Humphrey, 63, 65.
——— Roger, 63, 65.
Sterling, Timothy, 358.
Stevenson, Thos., 291.
Stoderd (Stodderd), Hugh, 350, 351.
Stoke, St. Mary the Virgin in, 238.
Stokes, John, 83, 84, 91.
——— Thos., 84.
——— Will., 83.
Stokley, Will., 298.
Stonall, 223.
Stone, 119, 242, 329, 331, 332, 334, 348, 354.
——— Capt. Henry, 288, 333–4.
——— John, 288.
——— Prior of, 242.
——— Priory, 326, 348.
——— Thos., Prior of, 362.
Stonehewer, Joshua, 227.
Stones, Thos., 298.
Stonier, John, 75, 122.
——— Roger, 75.
Stotfold, *see* Statfold.
Stourton, 217, 334.
Stowe, 293.
——— Heath, 93, 98.
St. Pierre, Urian de, 276.
Stramshall, 345.
Strangelford, John de, 216.
Street, Rich., Clerk, Canon of Lichfield, 19, 139.
Strelley, Robt., 281.
Strethay, 334.
——— John, 85, 300.
Stretton-by-Penkridge, 294, 302, 348.
——— Hervey de, 274.
——— Will. de, 251.
Stubbs, Will., 156.
Stuth, Rent called *le*, 256.
Stych, Rich., 227.
Sugnall, 291, 293.
Suker, Will., of Storeton, 75.
Sutton, Edwd., Lord Dudley, 89, 317, 319, 323, 324, 327, 331.
——— Jas., 10.
——— John, of Dudley, 246, 309, 310, 314, 316, 317.
——— ——— son of Rich. de, 250.
——— Osbert, 356.
——— Rich., 6.
——— Robt., 159.
Swan, Henry, 242.
Swanild, Will., 220.
Sweekeston, Henry, 220.
Swinfen (Swynfen), 160.
——— Broun, Col. Michael Alexander Wilson, 294.
——— John, 127, 291, 333, 334, 357.
——— Robt. de, 297.
——— Roger de, 298.
Swinford, *see* King's Swinford.
Swynnerton, 262, 269, 292.
——— Alan de, 263.
——— Humphrey, 234, 281, 299, 301, 350.
——— John, 278–80, 283, 297–8, 308.
——— ——— of Hilton, 267, 309–11.
——— John Nowell, parson of, 149.
——— Robt. de, 246.
——— Roger de, 305, 308.
——— Thos. de, 150, 278, 291, 297, 300, 309.
Swynshead, Thos., 300.
Swythamley, 292, 338.
——— John Whitney of, 4.

T.

Tackeleye, Roger de, 250.
Tailour, *see* Taylor.
Talbot, Chas., Earl of Shrewsbury, 341, 342.
——— Fras., Earl of Shrewsbury, 319, 321, 322.
——— George, Earl of Shrewsbury, 323, 324, 351.
——— Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, 317, 319, 324, 327.
——— John, of Alton, 313.
——— ——— of Malahide, 355.
——— ——— Sir 99, 111, 319, 356.

Talbot, Philip, Sir, 103.
——— Robt. le, 216.
Talke (Tauk), 50, 53, 256, 257.
——— Will., 311.
Tame, river, 192.
Tamworth, 128, 153, 357, 362.
——— Castle of, 58.
Tare, John, 197.
Tatenhill, 222.
——— John, 256, 257.
——— Will. Bryan, parson of, 251.
Tatton, Raphe, 9.
——— Will., 351.
Taylor (Tailour), John, 226, 238, 289.
——— John, of Seisdon, 349.
——— Will., 186.
Tean, 76, 196.
Tennant, Will., 291.
Terlyke, Randolph, 21.
Terrick, Saml., 334.
Ters, Will., 251.
Tettenhall, 293.
Tettesworth, 350, 351.
——— Henry, son of Will. de, 252.
——— Randolph, son of Will. de, 252.
Tewe, Griffith, 9.
Thamenhorn (Thamhorn), Thos., 279.
——— Will. de, 252.
Thickness, Chas., 166.
——— Raphe, 55, 56, 166.
——— Rich., 256.
Thompson, Gregory, 206.
Thorley, John, 122, 123.
——— Raphe, 121–3.
——— Rich., 75, 121, 123.
Thorn, Randall, 190.
Thorneley, 77.
Thornhill, Robt., 350.
Thornycroft, Thos., 293.
Thorp Constantine, 291, 292, 294.
——— Master Walter de, 252.
——— Mylne, 184.
——— Thos. de, 252.
Thynne, John, 202.
——— Thos., Sir, Viscount Weymouth, 340, 343, 358.
Thyrkell, Jas., 301.
Tileman, Thos., 133, 134.
Till, John, 69, 70.
Tillington, 222, 223.
Tinmore, 131, 191, 193–4.
Tipton, 293.
Tiretei, Maurice de, 274.
Titteley, Thos. de, 277.
——— Will. de, 277.
Tittensor, 258.
Titterton, Peter, 182–5.
——— Thos., 184, 197.
Tixall, 234.
Tofte, Ellen, 350.
——— Will., 350.
Tokey (Toky), George, 155, 156.
Tollet, Chas., 291.
Tomkinson, John, 69.
——— Robt., 69.
——— Thos., 58, 147.
Tomyns, John, of Envil, 75.
——— Rich. of Hymley, 74.
Tong, Warden of, 22.
Tonkes, Humphrey, 70, 115, 154.
——— Ralph, 117, 118.
——— Thos., 108.
Tooker, Will., Dean of Lichfield, 328.
Toratte, Will., 197.
Touche, Adam, 216.
Touchet, George, Lord Audley, 203, 323.
——— John, 257.
——— ——— Lord Audley, 50, 203, 313, 349.
——— Margt., 256.
——— Robt., 256.
Touk, Rob., Sir, 252–3.
Townsend, Henry, Justice of Chester, 325, 328.
——— Rich., 290.
——— Robt., Sir, 321.
Toyen, Harry, 63.
Trafford, Rich., 14, 189.
——— Will., 289, 337, 338.
Tremayle, Thos., 317, 318.
Trent, 139.
Trentham, 324, 331, 343.
——— Fras., 285, 286, 325, 326, 328.
——— Prior of, 251.
——— Priory, 233.
——— Thos., 285, 325.
Tresilian, Robt., 312.
Tresull (Tresel), 72, 74, 298, 349, 351.
——— Jas., 296.
Trevin, John, 153.
Trickett, Robt., 166.
Trillec, Robt. de, 277.
Triple, John de, 253.
Trumwyn, Roger, 277, 278, 304.
——— Will., 304.
Trussell, John, of Cublesdon, 309.
——— Will., 233, 234, 281, 297, 305.
——— ——— Admiral of the Fleet, 231.
——— ——— of Cublesdon, 231, 241.
Tucker, Thos., 107.
Tuke, Sir Brian, 61.
Tunkes, *see* Tonkes.
Tunstall, 217, 255.
Turner, John, Clerk, 168.
——— Rich., 173.
——— Roger, 159.
——— Thos., 136, 137.
——— Will., 227.
Turnoke, Robt., 351.
Turnwike, Oliver, 47.
Turton, John, 289, 291, 343.
——— Will., 335.

Tutbury, 218, 222, 238, 258, 348.
——— Abbey of, 348.
——— Castle, a map of, 239.
——— Honour of, 217, 247.
——— Minstrel's Court at, 239.
——— prior of, 252.
——— Robert, prior of, 253.
Twemlow, Thos., 292.
Twisden, Chas., 330, 331.
Twyford, John de, 308.
——— Mr., 359.
——— Ralph de, 252.
——— Thos. Will., 294,
Twyness, George, 25.
Tyffunde, Master Thos. de, 253.
Tylor, John, 89.
Tyrell, John, 315.
Tyrley, 218, 345.
Tyrre (Tyrry), Will, 72, 74.

U.

Ubberley in Brewood, 216.
Underhill, Rich., 5, 8, 22, 110.
——— Will., 105, 107, 109, 130.
Unwin, Rich., 121, 257.
——— Simon, 288.
——— Thos., 55.
——— Will., 204, 301.
Urswick, Thos., 317.
Uttoxeter, 189, 218, 222, 226, 234, 238, 258, 342, 344, 349.
——— John, parson of, 251.
Uttyng (Uttynge), George, 194, 196.

V.

Venables, Rich. de, 251, 297.
——— Will. de, 251.
Verdon, John de, 279, 311, 312.
Verdons, 239.
Verham, John, 65.
Vernon, Augustus Leveson, 294.
——— Edwd., 338, 341, 356, 358.
——— George, 338, 339, 341, 342, 344.
——— ——— Sir, 191, 192, 193.
——— Harry, Sir, 18.
——— Henry, 288, 290, 316, 317, 319, 323, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344.
——— ——— Charles, 293.
——— ——— of Hilton, 291.
——— John, 107, 109, 284, 300, 320.
——— Rich., 232, 234, 250, 281, 313, 314.
——— Robt., 88.
——— Thos., 156.
——— Will., 299, 314.
Veysy (Pheysey), Thos., 46–7, 242.
Villiers, Edwd., 335.
Vise, Humphrey, 166, *and see* Wise.

W.

Wainwright, Raphe, 202.
——— Rich., 63, 68, 96, 106, 107, 109.
Wakebrigge, Will. de, 311.
Wakering, Gilbert (Sir), 286, 328.
Walhouse, Moreton, 291, 292.
——— Will., 103, 106.
Walker, Edwd., 166.
——— George, 181–8.
——— Henry (Harry), 185, 187.
——— Humphrey, 79, 129, 144–8, 182–3, 186–7.
——— John, 144–6, 184.
——— ——— of Swindon, 75.
——— Ralph, 185, 358.
——— Rich., 190.
——— Thos., 46, 47, 358.
Walkering, John, 302.
Walklate, Hugh, 75.
——— Will., 231.
Wall Grange, 11, 12, 135.
——— Nich., 65, 70, 107–8, 112.
——— Will., 9, 12.
Walmisley, Will., 344.
Walsall, 3, 217, 226, 255, 293, 334, 351, 362.
Walshale, Will., 232–3, 235, 279–80, 297–8, 313.
Walter, Rich., 86.
Walton, 293.
——— by Stone, 242.
——— Enisan de, 265, 266.
——— Ernald de, 265.
——— Ivo de, 266.
Walwayn, John, 233, 297.
War Office Records, 248.
Ward, Edmund, 84, 85.
——— Edwd., Lord, 339, 340, 343, 357.
——— Ensign, 358.
——— Henry, 293.
——— Humble, Lord, 287, 332, 337.
——— Michael, 226.
——— Stephen, 148.
——— W., 358.
——— Will., 288, 342, 343.
Wardle, Robt., 350.
Warham, Henry (Harry), 50–1, 53–4.
——— Richd., 50, 51, 53–6.
Waring (Waringes), Nich., 114, 299, 316.
——— Thos., 325.
Warley, 154, 155.
——— Hall, 293.
Warner, Henry, 191.
——— Isabel, 224.
——— Jas., 6.
——— Rich., 227.
——— Robt., 58.
Warslow, 79.

Wasteneys, Malcolm de, 309.
——— Robt., 234.
Waterfall, 85, 156, 350.
Watson, Capt. Daniel, 335, 339, 341, 357.
——— John, 4.
——— Rich., 34.
——— Roger, 4.
——— Thos., 169.
Webb, Henry, 292.
——— Rich. le, 215.
——— Robt., 63, 64.
——— Thos., of Blakenall, 290.
——— Will., 357.
Wedgwood, Gilbert, 336.
——— John, 10, 161–4, 168, 302.
——— ——— the elder, 48–9.
——— ——— the younger, 48.
——— Will., 48, 75.
Wednesbury, 3, 234, 351.
Wednesfield, 66, 68, 78, 92, 95, 96, 101–3, 107.
Welden, John, 56.
Welfordbridge, 219.
Wells, (Welles) (Wellys), Humphrey, 151, 170, 193, 284, 301, 320, 322, 323.
——— John, 300, 318, 320.
——— Philip, 108.
Wem (Wemme), 218.
West, John, 157.
Westbury, Will., 315.
Westcote, John, 195.
Weston Coyney, 37–8, 234, 299.
Weston Jones, Will. de, 253.
——— Rich. (Sir), 329, 331.
——— Simon (Sir), 286, 328.
———-under-Lizeard, 338, 340.
——— Will. de, 251.
——— ——— Sir, Prior of the Hospital, 41.
Westwood, 293–4.
Wetherby, John, 84.
Wetley Moor, 36–8.
Wetnorth, Robt., 256.
Wetrines, Edmund, 76.
——— John, 14, 196–7.
Wetton, 183, 186, 197–8, 348.
——— Thos., 39.
Weythington, Thos., 126.
Wharthaw, John, 133.
Whatecroft, John, 298.
Whatlay, Robt., 194.
Whelock, John, 121, 122.
——— Nich., 75.
——— ——— Sir, Vicar of Biddulph, 121–3.
Whethales, John, 313.
Whewall, Lawr., 9.
Whieldon, Thos., 291.
Whitbroke, Rowland, 202.
Whitby, John, 336.
——— Thos., 289, 291, 329, 337, 344.
White, John, 55, 56, 158.
——— Philip, 154-6.
——— Will., 158.
Whitehall, John, 287, 335, 336, 338, 341.
——— Robt., 256.
Whitehurst, Jas., 9, 12.
Whitgrave (Whytgreve), 69.
——— Capt. Humphrey, 356.
——— George Thos., 292.
——— Robt., 69, 70, 299, 315.
——— Thos. Sir, 335, 338, 341.
Whitmore, 19, 223, 294, 329, 331, 332, 338, 342.
——— Robt., 88, 92, 93, 112.
Whitney, John, of Swithamley, 4.
——— Robt., 119.
——— Thos., Abbot of Deulacres, 40, 57, 77.
Whittington, 193, 255.
Whitwick, Alex., 332–4.
——— Saml., 358.
——— Thos., 78, 110.
Whitworth, Rich., 291.
Whorwood, Brome, 287.
——— John, 74, 330–1, 334.
——— Oliver, 75.
——— Rich., 75.
——— Thos., Sir, 73, 285–6, 325, 328–9.
——— Will., Sir, 286, 320, 326, 328.
——— Will., 301.
Wichnor, 134, 217, 223, 292–3.
Widder (Wydder), John, 44, 146–8, 185.
——— Ralph, 44, 146, 182, 185–6.
——— Thos., 184, 185.
——— Will., 144, 145, 147, 185.
Wiggin, Henry Arthur, 294.
——— John, 17.
Wigginton (Wiggington), 58, 362.
Wightwick, *see* Whitwick.
Wigmore Castle, 120.
Wigston, Roger, 320.
Wilbraham, Thos. (Sir), 287, 338, 340.
Wilbrighton, 136.
Wild, Rich., 22.
——— Robt., 196, 197.
——— Will., 187.
Wildecote, Thos., 300.
Wildgoose House, 350.
——— Thos., 160.
——— ——— Sir, Chaplain, 14, 15.
Wilkes (Wylkes), George, 300.
——— John, 95–6, 101–10, 112.
——— Rich., 78, 95, 97, 103–10.
——— Thos., 97.
——— Will., 3, 110, 316, 318.
Wilkinson, Thos., 56.
Willat, Hugh, 57.
——— Peers, 57.
Willenhall, 66, 92.
Williams, Philip, 293.

Williams, Walter, 293.
Williamson, Hugh Henshall, 292.
——— John, 291.
——— Ralph, 290.
Willingsworth, 334.
Willington, Thos., 117.
——— Will., 118, 155.
Willoughby (Wileby), Adam de, 297.
——— Edwd., Sir, 28.
——— Henry, Sir, 16, 27, 29, 283.
——— Hugh, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33.
——— Rich. de, 308.
——— Roger, 40.
Willowbridge Park, 180.
Willows, Roger, 203.
Wilmot, Thos., 341.
——— Will., 157.
Wilson, Edwd., of Cank, 290.
——— John, 288.
Windsor, Edwd., 286.
Wingfield, Rich., 319.
Winkle (Wynkyll), Roger, 75.
——— Will., 75, 121–3.
Wint, Will., 197, 198, 199.
Wirall, John, 8, 9.
——— Lawr., 66.
Wirley (Worley), Cornelius de, 298.
——— Humphrey, 286, 326, 329, 331, 339, 341, 343.
——— John, 287, 290, 325.
——— ——— Sir, 335, 338, 358.
——— Mark, 137.
——— Robt., s. of Guy de, 252.
——— Roger de, 279.
——— Thos., 323, 325.
——— Will., 102, 320, 322.
Wise, John Ayshford, 293, *and see* Vise.
Wistowe, John, 58, 127, 128.
Witam, Thos., 9.
Witawgh, Robt., 256.
Withies, Will. de la, 216.
Wodell, Thos., 300.
Wodenothe, Jonathan, 338.
Wolf, John, 190.
——— Will., 247.
Woliscroft, Will., 69.
Wollaston, 223.
——— in Bradley, 362.
——— Ralph, 129.
——— Rich., 30–1, 66, 151–2.
——— Will., 152, 286.
Wolrich, Jas., 174.
——— John, 82.
——— Rich., 69.
——— Roger, 69.
——— Will., 82.
Wolseley, 139.
——— Bridge, 226, 229.
——— Chas., Col., 336.
——— ——— Sir, 335, 338, 339, 343.
——— Eliz., 356.
——— John, 139, 301, 349.
——— R., 214.
Wolseley, Ralph, 316, 318.
——— ——— Lieutenant of Calais, 232.
——— Rich., 316.
——— Robt., Sir, 330, 331.
——— Thos., 315, 316.
——— Will., 356.
Wolsenam, Jas., 32, 34, 86, 169, 350.
——— Thos., 136, 161, 163–5, 169.
——— Will., 10, 25.
Wolstanton, 218, 219, 223.
Wolverhampton, 34, 63, 71, 90, 95, 98, 101, 108, 110, 112, 115–7, 129, 131, 202, 291, 294, 335.
——— bellmanship of, 65.
——— constable of, 65.
——— John Durell, Dean of, 359.
——— Thos. Jackson, Curate of, 91.
——— The "Angel" at, 66.
——— The "Cock" at, 97–8, 100.
——— The "Swan" at, 67, 88.
Wolverley, Humphrey, 74.
Womborne (Wombourn), 92, 101, 291.
Wood, Adam del, 253.
——— Anthony, 80–2, 126.
——— Edwd., 40–2, 80–2, 126.
——— Henry, 73.
——— Jas., 289, 335, 342, 344.
——— John, 81, 299, 316.
——— ——— del, 297.
——— ——— of Swynnerton, 234.
——— Nich., 107.
——— Rich., 148.
——— Robt., 37, 38, 81, 172.
——— Will., 9.
——— ——— of Talke, 56.
Woodford, 189.
Woodseat, 292, 293.
Woodshaw, Thos., 300.
Woodwall, Rich., 127, 128.
——— Thos., 157.
Woodward, Randall, 190.
——— Ralph, 198, 199.
——— Roger, 242.
——— Thos., 197.
Wootton-under-Weaver, 223, 247, 258.
Worcester, Nich., Bishop of, 174.
——— Will., Bishop of, 275.
Worswick, Matth., 337.
Worthington, Albert Octavius, 294.
Wortley, Thos., 282.
Wright, Christopher, 57.
——— Hugh, 45.
——— Randolph, 121.
——— Raphe, 23.
——— Rich., 178, 253.
——— Thos., 134, 201, 342.
Wrineford, 346.
Wrinehill, 166.
Wrottesley, Hugh, 212, 286, 311.
——— ——— Sir, 328.
——— John, 285, 325.
——— Rich., 283, 316, 318, 320.

Wrottesley, Walter (Sir), 24, 34A, 46, 64–5, 68, 72, 96, 98, 107–8, 110, 116, 124, 282, 284–5, 287–8, 300–1, 316, 320, 322, 326, 329–32, 338, 340, 343, 358.
——— Will., 296.
Wyghte, Roger, 128.
Wynnesbury, John, 235.
Wyther, Hugh, son of Walter, 250.
——— Walter, of Ilam, 250.
——— Will. (Sir), 253, 296, 366.

Y.

Yardley, Raphael, 206.
Yarlet, 247.
Yates, Eliz., 356.
Yelverton, Will., 315.
Yorke, Eliz., 174, 175.
Young, John, 179, 289, 336.
——— Thos., 179.
Yoxall, 16, 85, 148, 218, 226, 239, 258.
——— Will., 148.

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